WORLD SOCCER

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FAREWELL PELE

BILL GARNER Chelsea

World SOCCER

Kevin Keegan (hidden) scores England's first goal, a header from a Trevor Brooking cross, against Italy at Wembley.

MUCH BETTER ENGLAND

TO England the glory — but to Italy the prize of qualification for next year's World Cup Finals in Argentina.

That was the conclusion no one could fail to draw despite England's 2-0 win at Wembley, thanks to goals from Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking.

COMMENT
by Philip Rising

LAST MONTH this magazine suggested that the Football Association should consider harnessing Ron Greenwood with a club manager — preferably Brian Clough — to help cement England's future. Thankfully it seems that this idea has found favour at Lancaster Gate and England's much improved display against Italy should ensure that Mr Greenwood is retained in some capacity.

After wasting opportunities against Switzerland and Luxembourg he gave the side a refreshing new look for the visit of Italy. We hoped that he would play Steve Coppell and Peter Barnes — and he did — though it was disappointing not to have Peter Ward included as well. Bob Latchford has certain qualities but none of these were exploited against Italy.

Coppell and Barnes started well but neither showed up as well in the second half. Only by giving them both extended periods in the national side will they learn what is required at this level. But at least England can feel encouraged. There is hope for the future , especially if Mr Greenwood's emphasis on skill and intelligent play is given further chance to blossom.

Against Poland four years ago England needed to win and could only draw. This time the task was immeasurably harder — to win by so many goals Italy couldn't catch them, even by taking advantage of the Luxembourg part-timers on December 3.

But two goals put England and Italy level on goal difference, and though England landed for a couple of weeks at the head of group two, manager Ron Greenwood didn't expect them to stay there.

Not that Italy have an unblemished record against the minnows. Remember North Korea?

Satisfied

Opposite number Enzo Bearzot wasn't unhappy either with the score. "England have some interesting new players," he thought. "But I was satisfied."

England recovered a lot of the verve lacking under Don Revie. But the Italians refused to panic, thanks largely to the inspiration of Romeo Benetti — though he collected his usual booking for his usual rugged tackling.

Mathematically England still have a chance. But now is the time to look ahead realistically. Italy are 95 per cent of the way to Argentina.

England went down fighting, with their best display for a couple of years. There were no jeers from the fans this time — only cheers, with the catcalls reserved for the Italians.

"At least we have shown the world we are not that bad,'s said caretaker manager Ron Greenwood afterwards. "We still have a lot of work to do. But in fact we found it easier tonight than against Luxembourg. The Italians, with their man for man system, allowed us to stretch them. The Luxembourg defenders just stood around, like lamp-posts. Let's hope they play like that against Italy too!"

Full report pages 4/5

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Pele . . . on the occasion of his farewell appearance in New York when he played one half for the Cosmos and one for Santos.

Keir Radnedge, Wembley Stadium, November 16

England — future is brighter

THE FOUR gloomiest years England have suffered since returning to the FIFA fold after the second world war, look like coming to an end.

An end ironically in the virtual certainty of World Cup elimination. But nevertheless, it wasn't the fact that they beat Italy 2-0 at Wembley to take what must have been a brief lead in group two — it was the manner in which England went out, that was remarkable.

Ron Greenwood, after stumbling through games against Switzerland and Luxembourg, decided to use the last match of his tenure as caretaker manager to introduce, belatedly, his own ideas of how to face an outstanding rival.

That Italy aided England's cause in ways too ridiculous for experienced players used to the cauldron of Calcio was an added bonus. But in the final analysis it wasn't a case of Italy playing badly — it was most definitely a matter of England playing well and deserving to win.

Victory in one battle may not be a lot of consolation, when Italy were left happily confident of winning the war. But at least England appeared to have shaken off the erratic shapelessness of the Revie era and, it appears, their re-cast team has more years ahead of it than the Italian side who on Wembley's showing, must beware the future.

They may do well in Argentina. Probably they won't. But after that they will have some catching up to do on an England who must have come very close, with their determination, pace and skill, to landing Greenwood with the manager's job on a permanent basis.

Kevin Keegan shook off the problems of Hamburg to recapture the heroic form displayed in Liverpool's triumph in Rome; Ray Wilkins showed he has come of age in the international arena; new caps Steve Coppell played some reassuringly mature football; and then there is always Trevor Francis at hand.

But, as Greenwood warned afterwards: "Don't let's get carried away by what has happened in one match."

On Italy's behalf, Enzo Bearzot wasn't unhappy either. In fact, he took a malevolent pleasure in justifying his caution beforehand in warning his players — and his Press — that the match would not be half as easy as everyone was predicting.

That much was clear from the fact that England kept Italy's man-for-man defenders on the move, and forced Bearzot to make a change after 25 minutes — taking Renato Zaccarelli off Kevin Keegan, and moving in Marco Tardelli. Tardelli, who had started by shadowing Peter Barnes, was replaced on the flank by the switching of Claudio Gentile.

But by then, England were already a goal ahead.

Italy created the first half-chance, with Roberto Bettega not nimble enough to turn in a wicked chip from Franco Causio. But it was mainly England, looking far better organised than in the Revie days, who saw most of the

World Cup round-up

FRANCE have qualified for Argentina following their 3-1 home victory over Bulgaria. Dominque Rocheteau scored for France in the 39th minute, with Michel Platini and Christian Dalger on target in the second half. Pzvetkov replied for Bulgaria.

Austria have already qualified from their group, clinching their place with a 1-0 win in Turkey. East Germany also won in Turkey, 2-1, with goals from Hartmut Schade and Martin Hoffmann. Volkan netted the solitary goal for Turkey, who made a good start to their qualification programme only to fade in the later stages.

Prohaska scores to give Austria a 1-0 victory — and a ticket to Argentina — against Turkey at the Izmir Stadium.

Northern Ireland beat Belgium 3-0 but with Holland already through from this group the match held little consequence for the Belgians. George Armstrong scored twice with Chris McGrath adding the third for the Irish.

Wales, one time candidates for a berth in Argentina, ultimately finished bottom of their group after losing 1-0 in Prague against a new look Czechoslovakia side. Nehoda scored in the first half.

Yugoslavia, without a goal or a point from their first two matches, shattered Rumania by winning 6-4 in Bucharest. Yugoslavia are now back in contention though their win also helped Spain.

The African Finals have been thrown open by Tunisia's 1-0 win in Nigeria, who are now out of it. Tunisia now have to face Egypt twice to determine which of the two goes to the finals.

The Asian section is led by Australia and Kuwait on goal difference ahead of Iran, who having played fewer games remain favourites.

Trevor Brooking about to be tackled by Marco Tardelli of Italy.

play, and took the lead after 11 minutes when Kevin Keegan rose unchallenged to head a short cross from Trevor Brooking inside Dino Zoff's far post.

More trouble for Italy followed almost immediately, when Francesco Graziani had to go off because of a cut eyebrow, returning with a bandage round his head and no interest in the rest of the game.

The result that Italy played on for the half hour to half-time with only ten effective players — or nine, if you prefer, because poor Zaccarelli trailed around like a little boy lost.

I thought here that Bearzot had fallen into the same trap as Ferruccio Valcareggi in the 1974 World Cup Finals. Valcareggi against Argentina, set a midfielder, Fabio Capello, to mark Rene Houseman. The decision helped turn Italy's World Cup campaign up a dead end. Bearzot repeated that fault.

Zaccarelli is a midfield player who has occasionally done well as sweeper with his club, Torino. He is not a marker. And that is what Italy needed against the lively Keegan. By the time Bearzot had realised his mistake, and let Zaccarelli fall into no-man's land, England were in the driving seat.

In fact, after 19 minutes, they could have been 2-0 up. Barnes, one of the three new caps — the others were Coppell and Bob Latchford — ran into the penalty box at full tilt after a cross from the other side had been deflected away from Dino Zoff, but he sent his first time shot wide of an open goal.

It was a critical error.

Barnes had an erratic game. The difficult things — such as a jinking run through the penalty box followed by a shot well stopped by Zoff — he did brilliantly. The easy things — such as trapping the ball — he found beyond him.

But this threat was such that both Romeo Benetti and Gentile were booked in the first half for bringing him down.

All the while the Italians struggled to pin England down. Causio and the graceful Giancarlo Antognoni threatened a few times, but with Roberto Bettega hanging back a long way into midfield and Graziani a waste of time, they had little to play to up front.

Tempers were raised a few times, once when Keegan was booked in the first half after a squabble with Tardelli, but generally Hungarian referee Karoly Palotai controlled the match sensibly, using the advantage as often as possible to keep the game flowing.

At half-time Greenwood went off at a brisk trot. He wanted, as he explained afterwards, to take as much time to make his players realise that the Italians were capable of hitting back hard at the start of the second half.

They did — but it wasn't obvious. It was the subtle approach. Slowing the game down, repeatedly back-passing to Zoff, and benefiting immensely from the introduction of Claudio Sala in place of Graziani, they looked far more sure-footed. Causio slipped in brilliantly from the right and Antognoni shot just wide. Even stopper Roberto Mozzini, as the Italians' confidence increased, went racing up for a header in one attack.

Then, for the second time, the game turned. England gathered themselves for a final do-or-die effort. Here again, the Italians helped them along. Zoff's clearances, both kicks and throws, were dreadful. An Italian back-pass to Zoff was tantamount to giving the ball to England.

Not that Zoff need be too unhappy about his performance. His reflexes are still cat-like, as he showed when he punched over the bar a good try by Dave Watson.

Finally, Keegan slipped the ball through, and Trevor Brooking scored the second. There were nine minutes to go; six when Francis substituted for a Keegan still dizzy from a tussle with Tardelli; five when Giacinto Facchetti limped off with a pulled muscle . . .

With three minutes left Watson headed into Zoff's hands; with two remaining Francis was felled by the combative Benetti; but the free kick came to nothing and England waved goodbye to Argentina.

Whether it was 1-0, or 2-0, mattered little to Italy. Either way they would be left needing just a win — by even one goal — against Luxembourg's part-timers, to qualify for Argentina.

"I wasn't unhappy with the result," said Bearzot. "It was important that we didn't lose by too much. But England are looking quite strong again — with some good new players, particularly Barnes."

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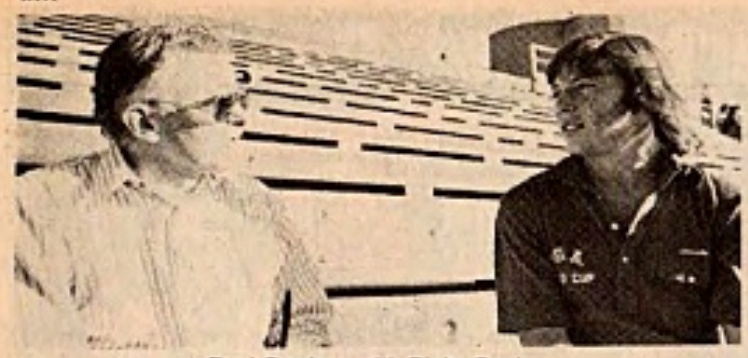

Paul Gardner with Ricky Davis.

TWO VIEWS DIFFER...

WHOEVER said it — Bernard Shaw or Winston Churchill, I forget — that old line about England and America being "two great nations separated by the same language" keeps coming to mind. There is something that seems to invite intimacy between the two peoples, but at the same time makes it impossible.

Take soccer. Two examples have recently appeared of the way that British journalists view the American soccer scene. Both are by top journalists. One sees nothing but roses, the other looks through jaundiced eyes. Both are wrong.

The optimistic view came in a television documentary called "Star-Spangled Soccer", written and narrated by Ian Wooldridge. The United States is portrayed as a sort of Island in the Sun for soccer players, which, perhaps, is the sort of impression you get when you limit your location shooting to New York and Tampa. Which happen to be two of the wealthiest and the best organised clubs in the league. There are others, not shown and not even hinted at in the documentary, where things are very different.

Well, budget and time limitations can account for that sort of thing. But what is one to make of script statements like "Half the nation's children now play soccer"? Not even the exuberant gentlemen at the NASL have ever claimed anything like that. The true figure is something like 400,000 kids enrolled in organised leagues.

And threaded through the programme is a theme that the way Americans talk about soccer, their whole way of looking at it is somehow, inherently amusing. Is it? It is, of course, *different* from the way the English talk about it. We do use some different words here. And most Americans would readily admit that there is a good deal of ignorance about the game. Whether all that makes the mention of the Tampa manager's name, T. Beauclerc Rogers IV, or lengthy concentration on their not particularly good broadcaster, of significance to the overall growth of American soccer is a moot point.

But the overall impression from "Star Spangled Soccer" is of a country where soccer players live a life of luxury, drive big cars, relax on beaches and play soccer in the sunshine in modern stadiums. Which is not entirely untrue, but far from the whole truth.

From the Xanadu that Ian Wooldridge sees we pass to something rather different. Writing in the *Daily Mail* on Pele's farewell game played in New York, Brian James found little to his liking at all. The whole thing was hyped-up and corny and tasteless and artificial, all of it punctuated by the announcements of an ignorant commentator, and explanations of the game on the giant scoreboard that struck Mr James as "pap for idiots."

Now, I can see quite clearly what Brian James is getting at. This occasion was not organised in the way that the English would have organised it (if, indeed, the English would have bothered to organise anything at all). It was an American affair, and as such it has an American flavour. And, of course, the event was televised by ABC Television, never noted for their tact and subtlety when it comes to sports events.

Nonetheless, despite the excesses, there was plenty that was moving and exciting on that afternoon. If Mr James didn't see that, or felt nothing, then it can only be that he chose to see and feel nothing. Just as he chooses to believe that it is the "Show-biz barkers who run soccer in the States."

If he does really believe that, he will no doubt find plenty of evidence to support his view — but he will never understand American soccer. Which is a shame, for this is a fascinating moment in the development of the sport in this country. Things are happening here that are going to have effects on the game worldwide. They are, I agree, not all good, but neither are they to be snottily dismissed as the overheated gimmicks of showbiz barkers.

* * *

The problem of what happens to young American players when they enter college has now come fully into the open. What happens, it is now agreed, is that they cease to develop as players. They may even, during their four academic years, get worse.

Logically, then, the pro coaches are looking for good young players of pre-college age, and suggesting to them that if they want to make a career of soccer, they should sign pro at the age of 17 or 18, and not go to college on a soccer scholarship.

The Cosmos have caused a bit of a stir on this point by recently signing two of the best young players in the States, Ricky Davis and David Brcic. Both of these players had actually played one year in college, so the Cosmos plucked them away from their studies, which is considered a rather dastardly thing to do. At least, the college coaches consider it dastardly. Both the players involved are keen to make soccer a career, and are satisfied that they cannot do it on the coaching and the competition that they would get in four years of college soccer. Along with three other Cosmos players, Davis and Brcic have now been sent to Italy, where they will receive coaching at the youth soccer centre run by Milan.

Both Davis and Brcic had been members of the United States Youth team, where one of their coaches was Ray Klivecka. Klivecka is now an assistant coach at the Cosmos, another example of the rather heavy-handed way that the Cosmos, another example of the rather heavy-handed way that the Cosmos do things, and a source of much bitter comment among college coaches.

Will Klivecka continue to coach the US Youth team, where — many college coaches fear — he is in a position to see the best youngsters in the country and recruit them for the Cosmos? National coach Walt Chyzowych replies: "I have to use the best coaches available to me. The United States Soccer Federation cannot afford to pay these people full time, obviously the coaches I use will be either college coaches or — like Ray Klivecka — employed by a pro club. Klivecka is a good coach. I shall continue to use him. If the college coaches object, then I suppose I should not use college coaches to coach high school players — they might recruit *them*, mightn't they?"

* * *

Chyzowych himself has, in fact, just taken a team of high school players to Monaco to play in the youth tournament against the likes of West Germany, Russia and Spain.

Not an encouraging task. Nevertheless, one look at a practise session of these boys revealed just how far we have come in the past five years or so. Here was skill and talent in abundance, and a considerable soccer-intelligence. And — the most encouraging thing of all to me — two of the best-looking players are youngsters from St. Louis, that hotbed of soccer that has for years promised so much and produced so little.

Whether these boys are ready for the sort of opposition they will find in Monaco, is another question. I do not think they are, and I really question the wisdom of sending a team anywhere at this time of the year — it is, after all, during the high school term, so that all the boys have to take at least three weeks off school.

Incidentally, while playing in Monaco, the US Juniors will meet with some rule oddities. The tournament organisers, with FIFA's permission, are trying out three changes:

1 — Mini-corners: if a defender plays the ball over his goalline within the penalty area,

Paul Gardner reports from New York

the corner is taken from the point where the penalty-area line crosses the goal-line.

2 — Kicks will replace throw-ins when the ball goes over the side-lines (how the old-time American college coaches will laugh at that! For years they used that rule, only changing it within the last 10 years because everyone, including yours truly, constantly criticised them for being out of step).

3 — Temporary expulsions, *à la* ice hockey. Certain offences (I'm not certain which) will result in a player having to spend 10 minutes off the field.

At a press conference we were shown a film that, allegedly, demonstrated these changes in practise. I say allegedly, because the film seemed to have been made in thick fog, contained sub-titles in Hungarian, and featured a French commentary as muffled as the cameras were out of focus. Don't ask me if the rule changes work — I have no idea. (We were given some help with the film, an interpreter who told us that, after a player had been temporarily expelled, he couldn't just come bounding back on to the field as soon as his 10 minutes was up, but had to wait for his team "to do a fault".).

* * *

News from the NASL includes the addition of three new cities to the league: Detroit, Memphis and Denver. The Detroit team, as yet un-named, numbers among its owners World Sports Academy Ltd — which means that English star and soccer personality Jimmy Hill, fresh from triumphs in Saudi Arabia, will be entering the American soccer scene.

The Denver team does have a name: the Caribous of Colorado, and I am sorry and somewhat alarmed to announce that their game shirts will have a fringe along the back — rather like the sort of shirt that Buffalo Bill used wo wear. It's those show-biz barkers at work again.

Next season also sees the raising of the NASL "American quota". In 1978, all teams will be required to have on the field, at all times, no more than nine non-Americans. A backward way of saying that there must be two Americans on the field. (It is worded in that awkward way because someone pointed out that if you required two Americans on the field at all times, and if by some hideous mischance, they both got sent off, then the poor coach would be required to take off two non-Americans and send two more Americans into the game; obviously silly, so if you're reduced to nine men, you don't have to have any Yanks on the field.)

There is also action, at long last, on the Players Union front. An organisation called the North American Soccer League Players Association has been formed, and has requested meetings with the league. The requests have been turned down, and the NASL refuses to recognise the NASLPA. This has meant hearings in New York, with both sides saying what they have to say before a "hearing officer" of the National Labor Relations Board.

Those are over, and we now await the finding — which will decide whether the NASLPA can go ahead and take a vote among all the NASL players. Something that could present all sorts of difficulties — after all, a goodly proportion of the NASL players are loan players, and spend more of their time playing outside the USA than in it.

* * *

Two jolly little stories from the world of college soccer.

Right at the end of the Cleveland State versus Indiana University game a penalty kick is awarded to Cleveland State. As the referee is placing the ball on the spot, the timekeeper (who sits on the sidelines) blasts off his klaxon to mark the end of the game. And everyone marches off. As it happened, Cleveland State were leading 2-0, so no harm done. I had to check — the college rules (which contain a number of rather eccentric things) *do* stipulate that a game must be prolonged to allow a penalty kick to be taken.

Twelve minutes into the second half of the Columbia versus Harvard game, the referee's whistle is heard, when no foul is apparent. The game stops and everyone looks bewildered. "You have 12 men on the field," the referee tells the Harvard coach. And so they have — and have had for the past 12 minutes. The fault was spotted by a sub on the Columbia bench, who told his coach, who counted and recounted and recounted before telling the ref. Frankly, with all the substitution and re-substitution that goes on in college soccer, I'm amazed it doesn't happen more often. May be it does?

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The Leslie British but

EVER since the World Cup draw for the group competitions, a tall dark stranger has been haunting the English football grounds. At first, his presence at a humdrum League encounter was greeted with a hub of excitement, and the news spread in the Press box: Enzo Bearzot is here!

But the novelty soon wore off, as we began to take it for granted that the national team manager of Italy practically spent more time over here than in his native land. After such an excruciating and thorough study of all the potential (and some with no potential at all) candidates, I had the feeling that Bearzot would make an ideal England manager. But as such a task would, of course, be even beyond the duplicity of an Ernst Happel, Bearzot became the next best thing — an England fan and critic.

At a Press conference organized for him by the Football Writers Association (we are still good losers!), he stated that we lack outstanding players, have no fantasy, and our planning for the World Cup was haphazard, illogical and ill-conceived. Bearzot stated the obvious — you need a settled side to be successful, you have to slow down to be effective, you need players who can deliver the "killing pass" into the box accurately, and others who can score goals consistently at the highest level.

To learn more about his theories, and about the sudden rise of Italian football, under his guidance, I arranged to meet this outspoken (and why not?) missionary at the home of that ebullient character, Gigi Peronace, whose official loyalties belong to Italy, but would also dearly like to see England prosper. Bearzot was an above average wing-half during his playing days, wearing the colours of Torino and Inter Milan with distinction.

Facchetti (6) in action for Italy against Kaltz of West Germany.

He had only one outing in the international jersey — against Hungary in 1955, when he had the "easy" job of marking Ferenc Puskas. On retirement, he was coaching at Torino as an assistant to Alfredo Foni, and in 1968, moved to the F.A., first as manager of the U-23 team, then later as the senior coach helping the ageing Fulvio Bernardini. He took over the fearful job of national team manager shortly after the disastrous World Cup venture of '74, and began to re-shape his country's football. Sitting back in one of Gigi's comfortable armchairs, the chain-smoking "simpatico" Enzo seemed glad to talk about the game and air his strongly held beliefs.

"What were your objectives when you were appointed as the manager of Italy?"

"To keep the backbone of the old team, and to find as quickly as possible younger talent which would prosper on international level. My plan was simply to reach the standards of other, more advanced teams. Holland is my ideal footballing nation. But their way of playing takes a decade to perfect. So, I took Poland of the 1974 World Cup vintage as my prototype. They had two strong centre-backs, a fluent midfield, good wingers, and strikers willing to help out in defence. At that time, our forwards used to laze about near the half-way line waiting for "service".

"Consequently, our midfielders were out-numbered and out-manoeuvred. We could only get the ball back in our own penalty area, and in that position, you need a Suarez or a Bobby Charlton to launch an attack from such a deep position. In Mexico, we had Rivera and Mazzola, but by '74 they were not efficient enough. But in any case, there is no room for 'specialists' in modern football".

Attractive soccer

"Coaches usually say that, but they are still looking for defenders, strikers and wingers?"

"That's true, although Facchetti and Bettega, for instance, could change places without any loss of efficiency. Players must be versatile. And my mind was made-up for me in the first half of our match against England in New York in the summer of last year. We were leading 2-0 and playing attractive, attacking football. There was a confusing period in the second-half, and we eventually lost 3-2. After the game, I went into the dressing room and told them that in future, the Italian national team will play as we did that afternoon, or I shall hand in my resignation. It was a decisive moment and I was hoping that the players would back me — and they did! By now, we are well on the way — well let's say half-way — to becoming a team like Holland. As you know, despite the forecasts of the "experts", we did score more goals against Finland and Luxembourg than the supposedly more aggressive England team".

"You accuse us of lacking imagination. Yet, the romantic Italians, in an environment of the greatest art treasures of the world, play fear-ridden, defensive, anti-football. Why?"

"Soon after the war, great foreign players made our rich clubs too strong. The others had no alternative but to defend. When this 'stop the other team play' philosophy became accepted, Herrera introduced the 'cattenaccio' for a remarkably good Inter side. They were brilliant in defending and counter-attacking, and established a type of football we found very difficult to condemn. But now we are getting out of this 'straitjacket'. There are fashions in football — 'cattenaccio' is not this year's model, and will never come back again".

Vernon interview

players have assets they lack organization

with ENZO BEARZOT

"Do you agree that since the English crowds are conditioned to watch all-action football, our players have an impossible task on international level?"

"Your spectators respect the players — that is a great plus — our footballers are abused mercilessly even by their own teams' fans. Nobody likes to see boring, slow, possession football. In Holland, the gates are low, and many people prefer to stay at home to watch an English League game on television! British players have great assets — application, bravery, physical strength. But they lack directive, organization — they need traffic wardens to show them the way. It is not always forward! Getting the ball into the opposing penalty box is not the first (or the last) catechism of modern football".

"What kind of World Cup do you anticipate?"

"A hard fought, passionate one — on-and-off the field. We shall need very strong referees — people who are able to divorce themselves from the emotions of the crowd. Referees who can 'foresee' a foul, even before it is committed! W. Germany and Holland should be the favourites. The Germans have already replaced Beckenbauer adequately, and their results during the South American tour, and in Europe, were first class. Holland played magnificently against Belgium last month. Brazil have several excellent players — they are no longer so elegant, but more functional. Incidentally, it is a disgrace that countries like England, Russia, Belgium and others cannot get into the Finals, while Mexico and Nigeria are there. In future, there must be a global draw for the qualifying competition. They say that everyone wants to play in the World Cup. Okay, let them play in the preliminaries, but in the Final we must have the strongest 16 countries."

"What is the main problem of football?"

"There is too much emphasis on speed, athleticism. I do accept that the modern player must be an athlete, but he must have skill as well. Cruyff is a genius, because he can display great skill at fantastic speed. But who else can do that? We need more artists, better technique, dedicated, intelligent players. Not meteorites who flash around for a short while, but world-class performers who are able to give lengthy service to the game. And there is a danger that forces outside football could kill football. Politically motivated people bring weapons with them into football grounds. Hooligans want to get their 'kicks' at football grounds. We are the victims of an insane age. That's why the game itself should be respectable. We all have a responsibility — managers, players, referees, journalists. Please do not dramatize or glamourise violence! Teach your readers to respect a stronger team or a luckier one — yes, even a luckier one! After all, it's only a game."

On that philosophical note we shook hands, wished each other good health, happiness and luck. Pigs might fly, but it would certainly be a miracle if this sincere, dedicated man, Enzo Bearzot, could change the face of Italian football. Incidentally, during the entire dualogue, the usually loquacious Gigi Peronace didn't utter a word. Who knows, perhaps this is a good year for miracles . . .

Quote of the month

The Quote of the month comes from Newcastle captain Geoff Nulty on the sacking of manager Dinnis in the Daily Mail (Nov. 10, 1977). "We have lost a first class manager. All the layers would love to play for him again". Perhaps that was the trouble — too many layers, not enough players!

Pictures by Peter Robinson

Benetti (4) of Italy against Flohe of West Germany.

Causio (left) in a race for the ball with Dietz of West Germany.

Robin Parke reports from Hong Kong

Pele, in action for the New York Cosmos against Japanese champions Furukawa Denko in Tokyo's National Stadium. A crowd of 50,000 watched the Cosmos win 4-2.

Israel leave AFC and apply to join UEFA

THOSE with half an eye on Asian soccer and on the future of the Asian Football Confederation as the controlling body of the sport in the area will be aware of the impending confrontation between that body and FIFA.

Mention has already been made in the columns of this magazine and the deadline of January 5 remains. By this time the AFC must have reinstated Israel, expelled China and brought back Taiwan. This ultimatum was delivered to the AFC after a FIFA Executive Committee meeting in Monaco and the original six month deadline — it expired on August 5 — was extended to the present January 5 date.

There have been significant developments in the last two months which would appear to directly affect the issue. Firstly, Israel voluntarily resigned from the AFC and is seeking admission to the European Union of Football Associations (UEFA). Secondly, the Football Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) let it be known that they were quite prepared to join the Oceania grouping of FIFA.

On the heels of the last statement made by the Taiwanese came an official statement from FIFA headquarters in Zurich, apparently made by Dr Helmut Kaiser, that FIFA's demands must still be adhered to by January 5.

Certainly FIFA's statement must be welcomed as it is obviously unthinkable for a subordinate body to usurp the control vested in the world authority. However, the positions adopted by both Israel and Taiwan make the affair more complex.

Sympathy

Israel have had a hard time of things in the politically-oriented AFC and can obviously arouse sympathy in countries where the sport alone matters — assuming such almost utopian states still exist. But they will face tremendous opposition from the East European countries in their bid for UEFA membership and may well be frustrated.

Membership of UEFA would be obviously beneficial to Israel, much more so than continued membership of the troubled AFC. They would be eligible for the European Championships and the national league would be given an enormous boost by the prize of a European Cup place.

To a much lesser extent Taiwan would benefit by joining Oceania. Here it is not a question of boosting the game but simply of survival. Taiwan out of the AFC would place her out of the immediate firing line and keep her vital place in FIFA which she wants more than anything else in sport at the moment. Taiwan's continued presence precludes acceptance of mainland China who, of course, insist on the island state's expulsion.

There then remains the all important question of China and the AFC. According to FIFA's ultimatum China must be expelled as the country was unlawfully admitted in the first place. So, given that Israel and Taiwan may have made the other points of the ultimatum rather academic, China looms as large as ever.

And this is where the crunch will come. The present frame of mind of the AFC would not permit the abrupt dismissal of China and the issue will be camouflaged, have no doubt about that.

There are, even now, anomalies in the China soccer situation. The country refused membership of FIFA — but is still permitted to play against FIFA members if prior permission has been obtained from Zurich headquarters.

This is increasingly difficult to understand. When this partial "opening of the door" came about some four years ago there were hopes that China might be accommodated in the world body. She had powerful friends and it was, rightly, felt desirable that some form of on-field communication should take place without the statutes, or the spirits of the statutes, of FIFA being damagingly infringed.

This resulted in Chinese national and youth teams taking part in several AFC competitions and in a series of friendly matches between Asian and African teams on the Chinese mainland.

But a FIFA Congress 16 months ago rejected a China demand that Taiwan should be expelled as a pre-requisite for Chinese membership of FIFA.

This did not receive the mandatory three-quarters majority but China were invited to join FIFA — with Taiwan still in — and curtly refused.

China's soccer activities since have not noticeably diminished and she sponsored a Friendship Invitation tournament last July which involved teams from Africa, the Middle East and, of course, Asia. And, as the world knows, Pele and the New York Cosmos, played in Peking and Shanghai — deplorably badly, one might add — as part of the former superstar's farewell tour. What price membership of FIFA then?

This is going to be the crucial point of the FIFA ultimatum. If the AFC refuse to dismiss China will FIFA apply sanctions not only to the AFC but also to China in not allowing member countries or clubs to play against Chinese teams in or outside that country? It is perfectly obvious to those thinking only of the good of the sport and a strong controlling world body that the strongest of lines must be taken.

It might be worthwhile for the executives of FIFA to reflect on the turmoil currently afflicting the International Badminton Federation. In a move which was rightly condemned as illegal in the London High Court, the IBF admitted China and expelled Taiwan at an extraordinary meeting in Malmoe, Sweden, last April. Taiwan were expelled without the mandatory three-quarters majority and incensed senior members of the IBF took the matter to court — and won.

Since then politically committed Asian nations have gone about setting up a World Badminton Association and directly splintered, if not shattered, the proper world body, the International Badminton Federation.

I do not say that this is what would happen if FIFA did not stand firm — but it is a possibility. However FIFA are demonstrably stronger than the IBF and would have the vast support of the majority of Asian national associations.

It simply remains a question of standing by their own laws.

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Cruyff will be missing

JOHAN CRUYFF and Franz Beckenbauer say they certainly are not going. Ralf Edstroem says he is most perturbed by the prospect, while his Swedish international team, having qualified, were in doubt about going, themselves. It is going to be something of a strange World Cup.

Let me say at once that though I am deeply disappointed about Cruyff and Beckenbauer (what kind of a World Cup can it be that lacks the two finest players on earth, when their teams are qualified?) I see their point of view and Edstroem's; though I am rather less sympathetic with that of Sweden. If they felt uncertain about their participation in the World Cup, they should not have entered for it in the first place.

When Edstroem says he fears for his safety, he has every reason to do so. True, things at the time of writing are quiet in Argentina. True, there was no sign of anything remotely untoward in Buenos Aires when I myself was there last summer with the England team. But one has heard disturbing rumours that the *montaneros* guerillas are planning some kind of coup during the World Cup, and what kind of guarantee can there be that it will be prevented?

West Germany, for all the activity of the Baader-Meinhof psychopaths, was at least a country with a democratic government, supported by the mass of the population. A saturation of security ensured, thank Heavens, that the 1974 World Cup passed off without any major outrage.

Argentina, by contrast, is held down by a military dictatorship — itself holding at bay a still more brutal and reactionary military Right Wing. Assassination squads still move about untrammelled. Political suspects are thrown into goal and tortured.

The guerilla movement seems, for the moment, under control, but I do not see that the Argentinian Government is in any position to guarantee that nothing untoward will happen, the length and breadth of that huge country, during the World Cup. Argentina, alas, is simply one of the various tyrannies which has turned South America today into a giant torture chamber. Chile and Uruguay are unquestionably worse. In Brazil, there are faint signs of improvement, but the picture is little better.

The dilemma is evident. Where do you play a World Cup? Adhere to the principle of international sport, and you are faced at once by the fact that our world at large is one of brutal dictatorships, repressive governments. Behind the Iron Curtain, Russia and its unhappy satellites, with their Gulag Archipelagos, their secret police, their utterly cynical disregard of their own cosmetic constitutions, are a greater nightmare than Latin America. Where does one draw the line? It seems to me that FIFA have been right to draw it only where there is evident discrimination against some racial group; as in South Africa.

Otherwise, it seems to me, you have to shut your eyes, hold your nose, and play where the chips fall. The alternative to this is to eschew international sport altogether. While not for a moment paying any respect to the fatuous bromide that it improves relations between countries, I would be sorry if that were to happen. Brazil's regime disgusts me; their footballers are splendid. Russia is perhaps the most repugnant absolutism known to man, yet who would have deprived himself of the pleasure of the Moscow Dynamos' British tour in 1945, the pleasure of watching Oleg Blokhin play, today?

A couple of ironies occur to me. A few years ago, when I deplored the choice of Argentina on political and humanitarian grounds, two readers wrote to me upbraiding me for my suggestion of Brazil, on the grounds that I was becoming an accessory after the fact, an implicit sympathiser with Brazil's dictatorship!

Then, before the last World Cup, there was the egregious hypocrisy of the Russians, who refused to play in Chile — even outside Santiago, and the stadium where political prisoners had been murdered — as a protest against the Right Wing government and its terrorism. Thus, from the state which has given us the Gulag Archipelago! And in any case, the protest wasn't even made till Chile had been to Moscow, forced a 0-0 draw, and obviously made themselves favourites to qualify, in the return game.

I shall be going to Argentina in (not excessive) hope. For all its underlying violence, all the intimidatory viciousness of its football crowds, I find Buenos Aires an agreeable city; perhaps seen at its very worst in its football stadia. But I don't think, if I were Cruyff, I would be feeling quite as sanguine.

Football is full of paradox. The paradox, for example, of England's pathetic showing in the World Cup, their feeble exhibition in Rome, followed but six months later by Liverpool's splendid display on the same ground, to win the European Cup.

How far can one equate club and international football? The contrast between Liverpool's results and England's was the subject of a question I put to such as Beckenbauer, Schoen, Bearzot, Keegan, Blanchflower and Greenwood in the course of a documentary I recently made for the West German television channel ZDF.

Greenwood pointed out "with respect" that when Internazionale were ruling the roost in European football, the Italian national team were falling down in the 1966 World Cup. Helmut Schoen said that when Real Madrid dominated European football, Spain had no great international team.

Answers a little flawed, I think, by the fact that both Inter and Real Madrid relied to so large an extent on outstanding foreigners. Real would never have been anything at all without the inspiration of the incomparable Di Stefano, while Inter, quite apart from their "conditioning" of referees in the Allodi-Solti era, owed much to Suarez, Jair and Peiro.

Yet the anomaly, and its fascination remain. If West German football is so far ahead of our own, if Liverpool are tactically so uninspired, than how could they so comprehensively rout the supposedly sophisticated, highly evolved Borussia Munchengladbach team? True, Borussia were not at their best. True, Borussia looked tired and worn. But whose fault was that? Kevin Keegan pointed out in my German film that English clubs play some 70 games a year, at Liverpool's level, while the Bundesliga teams play only 50; though they train twice a day to our men's once. Why, then, should Borussia so manifestly be less fit than Liverpool?

Then, there is the situation of Holland. We all know that Dutch clubs and players "have it right" in a manner we must envy, yet what have Ajax been worth since Cruyff came out of the team? About as much, or as little, as Real Madrid without Di Stefano. True, Neeskens, Haan and Muhren followed him into "exile," but the damage was done before then. Now, there is no outstanding Dutch club, and there are many in Holland who believe that the flow of fine players is drying up.

I am not so sure, looking at the likes of Jan Peters, scorer of those two fine goals against England at Wembley, and the AZ 67 full-back, Hugo Hovenkamp, who played so well there; not to mention little Kist, and the promising right winger of Chinese descent, Ling.

I've a feeling that English football is a little bit like the British economy: dead as a doornail one moment, remarkably buoyant the next. There are some things we shall never do as well as the Continentals and South Americans, others that we contrive to do better. In the meantime, one must plead again for moderation, as against generalisation. We were the first, after all, to sneer at the Italians for their sackcloth and ashes attitudes after the last few World Cups. It was no surprise when they rose from those ashes: to defeat us. There is no real substitute for tradition in football; and once it exists, no real cause for abject despair.

That Scottish penalty against Wales, at Anfield Road, continues to halt me; not merely on account of its injustice, but because of its implications. We know now, knew very soon after the game, that it was almost certainly Joe Jordan's hand which went up to touch the ball, that it could not possibly be that of Jones.

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

A subsequent photograph showed him jumping with Jordan with his arms down. Everybody praised M. Robert Wurtz for keeping up so diligently with the play, but in so far as he contrived, in all good faith, to give one of the worst and most decisive decisions in the recent history of football, his fitness was something of a two edged sword. Had he not been so close to the play, and thus so insidiously sure that he was right, maybe he would have consulted his linesman and given Wales, at the very least, the benefit of the doubt. No wonder poor Terry Yorath wept for ten minutes after the game. I would not have blamed him had he wept for an hour.

But what is to be done? How can we avoid such dreadful decisions in the future? When I raised the subject in the *Sunday Times*, I received a flood of almost paranoiac letters from Scottish supporters. What on earth is the matter with them all? Why must they assume that because one is not whole heartedly overjoyed by a Scottish victory achieved with a ludicrous goal (the second goal, as Yorath rightly said, was a mere afterthought, scored because Wales were upfield looking desperately for an equaliser) one is bitterly anti-Scottish, bursting with sour grapes after the failures of England?

I cannot see how anybody in their senses, with an interest and commitment to football, can be "anti-Scottish" when the Scots virtually invented the modern game, and carried, either directly or through their interpreters, to the four corners of the world. Yet they were fortunate at Anfield, and McGrain and Rioch did commit dreadful fouls on Masny in the important World Cup match at Hampden. I hope they acquit themselves splendidly in Argentina, though I am not enormously optimistic. There is great talent in the team, but it lacks sophisticated leadership, and may well do no better than Scotland did in the 1974 World Cup.

To return, however, to the question of what can be done to bring more just decisions, it seems to me that the matter is one of technology; and how it can best be used. I have spoken of two edged swords. Technology is certainly another, as we shall see. Yet at this stage of its development, surely it should not be beyond the wits of man to devise some kind of aid to referees?

It has been suggested that the referee and his linesmen be assisted by a fourth official, in control of a television monitor. Whenever the referee requires it he could re-run the controversial incident, presumably in slow motion, for his instruction. Had this been done at Anfield, there is little doubt that a penalty would not have been given. Yet there is equally little doubt that such a system would be open to all kinds of controversy.

In the first place, in precisely what circumstances would it be brought into use? To take, once more, the penalty given against Wales: if M. Wurtz were so sure that he was right — and there was no hesitation, no consultation with his linesman — then presumably he would not have gone to his "technological adviser" with the television set, even had there been one.

Would it, then, be permissible for the captain of a team to appeal and demand such a consultation? Again, in the case of the penalty at Anfield, it would be thoroughly justified. Yet once you allow such appeals, where would they end, not least in the case of offside decisions? One assumes that every captain, or touchline manager/coach, would protest at any and every award of a goal, thereby devaluing the technological aide, and adding to each game a most displeasing element of controversy; to say nothing of the time wasted.

Moreover, what guarantee would there be that the little television set would tell the truth? Perhaps the most controversial goal in the history of the World Cup was that scored by Geoff Hurst, in extra time, to give England a 3-2 lead over West Germany in the 1966 World Cup Final. The ball hit the underside of the crossbar and went over the line; or did it? As we know, M. Dienst, the Swiss referee, was unsure. He consulted his linesman, the Russian Bakhramov, that splendid violinist-figure, and Bakhramov, with great emphasis, said that a goal it was. I have watched again and again, often in slow motion — an slower still, on the movieola — the sequence of that goal, and cannot say that anything was truly proved, one way or the other.

Clearly experiment and much discussion are indicated. I have sketched the problems; I cannot pretend to have thought of a solution. It is worth bearing in mind, however, that in certain American stadia, the scoreboard now actually gives instant television replays of events in the game; something which can scarcely enhance the referee's authority, though at the moment American crowds are too untutored and ingenuous to know what's what. And to think that before the war, the football authorities here wouldn't allow clocks to be erected inside the ground, for fear of subverting the referee!

ALL credit to Millwall for employing a South American to coach their juniors; and sometimes their seniors! Oscar Arce, an Argentinian with sparse, blond hair, married an English girl and lives near New Cross on the Isle of Dogs; a strange place to find so exotic a figure. Arce had a spell – though not a very happy one – at Villa Park, playing in the reserves. The Millwall youngsters enjoy working with him, the seniors wish they had more of him. His speciality is technique; and this, we all know, is the very area in which our players fall behind. It is hardly astonishing. The whole tendency of the English game militates against it, and it is of no use simply blaming the clubs and the coaches. You have only to go into a school yard to see how the emphasis is placed on commitment, courage and strength at the expense of ball control.

It was not ever thus. A century or so ago, at Charterhouse, there was something know as Run About, a game played virtually by the whole school, whose object – those were sturdily individualist times, with no such things as Jack Jones, Hugh Scanlon or demarcation disputes – was to retain the ball for as long as possible. Do that today in the playground of a London comprehensive school and you will incite obloquy. The term of current abuse, I believe, is, "Flash!"

But we need more, not fewer, "flash" players, players capable of sublimely walking round two men to score, as Bettega and Zaccarelli did for Italy against Finland, in Turin.

Oscar Arce, who believes that British players by and large are idle and undisciplined (to the extent that they won't work hard enough on their skills) is a pinpoint rather than a beacon of light. The insane resistance to foreign managers and coaches has deprived us for years of the cross-fertilisation that our football so urgently needs. Millwall and their manager, Gordon Jago, have boldly indicated the way. Would that it be followed.

Danny McGrain of Celtic and Scotland.

BRIBERY SCAN THING OF THE

Player Portrait on KLAUS FISCHER by KEIR RADNEDGE

THE STORY of Klaus Fischer must rank as one of the most remarkable in present-day international soccer.

It's a story of a man turned down as not good enough by Hennes Weisweiler; a man banned for life from football; a man who now carries the hopes of West Germany for a successful defence of the World Cup.

Whatever else you may say about Fischer — whether you think he should have been rehabilitated to soccer at the highest level — there is absolutely no denying his talent, his determination, and the fact that before he has taken any step forward in his career he has had to fight for the chance.

Now he is centre forward of West Germany, and captain and top scorer of league challengers Schalke. Yet 10 years ago he was going to Borussia Moenchengladbach for a trial — a trial he remembers as a "disaster," and after which Borussia coach Weisweiler lost interest in the glassblower from the Bavarian village of Zwiesel.

Fischer can afford nowadays to look back calmly at the trial fiasco. No doubt at the time he was far from cool. For Borussia, mixing Fischer in with a lot of other eager youngsters, didn't have a full range of footwear available. Fischer hadn't brought his own boots, and had to borrow some from the club. In the rush he was supplied with boots far too small.

"I could hardly control the ball I was so uncomfortable and cramped," he recalled years later.

Hardly surprising, in the circumstances, that Borussia sent him away. But what was surprising was that they then forget all about him. Other clubs weren't so lax. And in 1967 Fischer went to TSV München 1860 in exchange for a £3,000 fee. From 1968 to 1970 Fischer was one of the youngest centre forwards in the Bundesliga, but despite his hitting 28 goals in 60 games over those two seasons 1860 were relegated.

And Fischer's career was apparently plummeting with them.

But that was an impression which lasted only a few weeks — the time it took Schalke to come to an agreement with 1860, and then with Fischer. From a £70-a-week contract in Munich he was on the ladder which would soon lead to a £70,000-a-year agreement.

Born in the village of Kreutstrassel on December 27, 1949, Fischer had now reached the big-time. Schalke didn't need to rely only on his quick wits in front of goal, there were other good players around. In goal was Norbert Nigbur, in the middle of defence Klaus Fichtel, and on the right wing skipper Reinhard Libuda.

In that first season, 1970-71, Schalke started with high hopes, but finished sixth after parting company with coach Rudi Gutendorf halfway through the season, partly thanks to the pressure of some of the senior players who felt he worked them too hard.

Schalke were never in contact with the leaders but never in any danger of going down. Unlike Arminia Bielefeld, who stayed up thanks — among other results — to a surprising 1-0 away win over Schalke, six weeks before the season's end. A goal from Gerd Roggensack in the second half helped Arminia's cause, and put another nail in the coffin of fellow strugglers Kickers Offenbach.

What the 14,000 crowd didn't know was that the match had been fixed. An Arminia player had offered the Schalke players an amount reported as £10,000 between them, to ease up and let Arminia win.

The season hadn't long finished, with Fischer delightfully celebrating his role as Schalke's top scorer — 15 goals from an ever-present 34 games — before the first whispers were heard. It didn't take long for the truth to emerge and the guilty players were put through the hoop in both sporting and civil courts.

In all Fischer paid fines totalling about £2,000 as the first protracted hearings went ahead. He was first set up for a life's ban, then the DFB decided on a two-year suspension. In January 1973, after an appeal, the ban was cut to one year. While the appeals were heard the players' careers hung in the balance. For most of the time they played on — fearing that every game might be their last.

One thing already had been decided. The 19-man DFB council had stipulated that no player involved in a bribery case should ever be picked to play for West Germany. The affair hit Schalke like a thunderbolt. As Fischer has recalled only too clearly.

He told a colleague: "For me and my team-mates it was like the end of the world. We were a long time without playing. We had virtually two years living in hell, training alone, with no idea of what would eventually happen to us.

"Yes, I was in the wrong. I made a ridiculous error. I was young, I suppose, I didn't think and committed what I know now to have been an inexcusable mistake. For that I had to accept the punishments meted out by the DFB.

"Almost two years without playing, and six years altogether going from one lawyer, court hearings, appeals, and all the rest. There's no-one else to blame but myself. It was my own fault.

Better team

"We were clearly the better team, but in the dressing room before the game against Arminia the older players told me we had agreed to let Arminia win. I received a sum of money, Arminia won and stayed up, and Kickers Offenbach went down. Afterwards of course, it all came out into the open, and that meant all kinds of trouble. I realised my mistake, but by then of course it was far too late."

So how did you feel when the matter was cleared up, and you were freed to play for West Germany and, not only did so, but scored twice in your first game against Northern Ireland?

"When I learned the international suspension had been lifted I was so happy I could have died. Then when I was put into the team against Northern Ireland I just knew I had to say Thankyou to Herr Schön with goals — and that's what I did.

"It hasn't wiped out the memory. I still have days when I want to run away and forget it all, pretend it never happened. But I think too that I've paid the penalty and should be allowed the chance to rebuild my career.

"And I don't believe what some people say either — that the DFB lifted the international ban just because that was the only way they could find someone to replace Gerd Müller."

Müller had retired from international football after scoring the winner in the 1974 World Cup final — and he was on hand to see Fischer pushing his claims to be returned to the fold last October. Schalke took advantage of an injury to Sepp Maier to win 7-0 away to Bayern Munich. Fischer hit a hat-trick. It wasn't his only one of the season.

A second followed in January, against Kaiserslautern. It was Fischer's way of celebrating the DFB decision that the guilty Schalke players should each make a donation of £2,500 to charity (cancer research) and then be left free to continue their careers without fear of any more recriminations.

Not that life became immediately straightforward for Fischer. His contract with Schalke was due to expire at the end of the season and it took six weeks' haggling through

N DAL E PAST

January and February before Fischer settled for a new five-year contract worth £100,000 a year.

In the meantime the threat of a new scandal loomed — over the matter of some money, some match tickets and two matches against MSV Duisberg and Hamburg in 1972-73, all of which had become tied in somehow with a newsagent's shop run by Schalke's coach Friedel Rausch.

President Günter Siebert was forced out by a boardroom putsch, and it seemed impossible that the team could play on unscathed by the trouble all around. But play on they did, to such effect that they finished runners-up — their highest position since the inauguration of the *Bundesliga* in 1963 — and Fischer finished as fourth top scorer in the league with 24 goals. — An amazing 18 were scored with headers, and Fischer now claimed a *Bundesliga* career total of 156 — putting him fourth in the all-time scoring charts behind Gerd Müller (332), Jupp Heynckes (202) and Johannes Löhr (166).

By this time, too, he had become an international fixture. Schön hadn't been able to include him in the spring game against France because the DFB, when they cleared the players, had inadvertently forgotten to lift the international suspensions. West Germany played France in February, the next DFB council meeting wasn't until March — and only the DFB council could rescind the ban.

Rescind it they did, however, as soon as possible, and before naming his squad for two friendlies with Northern Ireland and Yugoslavia, Schön went to Karlsruhe, to watch Fischer in action. Schalke won 7-1 and Fischer scored his third hat-trick of the season.

"Karlsruhe made it so easy for him," said Schön later. But Fischer was in the squad, all the same.

Before the game against Northern Ireland, opinion was divided. Would Fischer be a straight replacement for the internationally disappointing Dieter Müller, would he be a substitute, or would they be used in tandem?

In the event Schön played both men, and the experiment was an outstanding success. West Germany beat the Irish 5-0 and Fischer scored twice. In the 58th minute he headed in a cross from Rainer Bonhof, and in the 84th he headed in a long pass from Schalke colleague Rüdiger Abramczyk, who was also making his international debut.

Fischer was kept reasonably quiet by the Yugoslavs four days later, but the Germans still won 2-1 away, and Fischer did enough to earn a place in the squad to tour South America at the season's end.

This was indeed a traumatic time for West German soccer. With Franz Beckenbauer defecting to the United States, the death of Sepp Herberger, then the resurrection of Fischer, the usually ordered Bundesliga was in ferment.

Fischer had long been tipped by Kaiser Franz as the best centre forward in West Germany, after Gerd Müller, and he sent about proving it in the four-match South American trip, scoring five of the Germans' eight goals, despite being rested for the 2-0 win over Uruguay.

He announced his arrival in the New World after only seven minutes of the opening tour match, against Argentina in the Boca Juniors Bombonera. A close range shot by Abramczyk struck Carrascosa and floated over goalkeeper Hugo Gatti into the six-yard box. Fischer was just getting up off the floor after a raid moments before, and he dived forward to head in the West Germans' first goal in their 3-1 win.

Fischer headed the second on the hour — this time after Abramczyk broke clear when the Argentines had been pressing in search of an equaliser. There was no room in this team for Dieter Müller, and neither Müller nor Fischer appeared against Uruguay.

Schön was resting Fischer for the big prestige match against Brazil in Rio — and Fischer struck yet again, with a 54th-minute goal which was threatening to end an unbeaten Rio run of 20 years for Brazil, until Roberto Rivelino poppeo up a few minutes from time.

To wind up the tour, the West Germans went — despite a lot of ridiculous and unnecessarily officious red tape — to Mexico City. At half-time the Germans, looking weary and disinterested, were 2-0 down. Then, in the 52nd minute, Fischer headed in a cross from Bernd Hölzenbein, and followed up by equalising 13 minutes later. For once it wasn't a goal with his head — but with his lethal right foot, after a close-range shot from Erich Beer had been blocked in the six-yard box.

"I don't know why you are always lamenting about losing Gerd Muller," said Mexican defender Javier Guzman later. "This Fischer is one of the most dangerous centre forwards I've ever played against."

There had been many doubters at first about the ethics of playing Fischer in the national team. But his markmanship won over most of his critics, and more than impressed his international team-mates.

"We've found the new Gerd Müller," slad goalkeeper Sepp Maier on returning to Europe. Fischer contented himself with preparing for a big new challenge — leading Schalke in what even the players were now starting to believe could be a league campaign crowned with the championship.

Fischer, as captain and top scorer, bears an enormous burden. But it's one he seems happy enough to bear. Schalke are one of the all-time greats of West German soccer. They have been champions eight times — but only once since the war, in 1958. They have won the Cup twice — the second success coming in the mixed-up twilight year of 1972.

Now there was a feeling in the club that the tide was turning. A new general manager had arrived — after much controversy — in Emiele Oestreicher, for former Honved, Real Madrid, Espanol Barcelona and Torino chief. And Fischer was ready to admit that this season could belong to Schalke.

"We have a great chance of the league title," he said. "We're bound to lose a few games, like anyone else. But I think we can really manage it."

Now, as I write, Schalke are at the top of the table, thanks to a 3-1 win over Bochum in which Fischer scored to take his indvidual tally to seven — some way behind Dieter Müller, who is on 14 already!

On the international front, Fischer has further entrenched himself. Away to Finland he took quick advantage of a blunder by Arto Tolsa to score the only goal, and was only narrowly off target with a spectacular diving header in the 2-1 win over Italy.

Fischer is now well set up for life. The earnings from his new contract are the icing on a cake which has already provided a big house, and a souvenir business — a development of his original apprenticeship in the glass industry.

But before he can think of taking it easy there's the World Cup next summer. How does Fischer think the Germans will fare?

"Our win against Argentina this summer showed we can get along without Franz Beckenbauer, and that had been worrying everyone — players, officials and the public. If I'm not very much mistaken, we'll be coming home next year after keeping the World Cup. But our main rivals will be Holland again, and, especially Argentina and Brazil."

Fischer's late arrival has misled many people into labelling him as a man who merely (!) puts the ball in the net.

But he has a much higher belief in the work expected of a centre forward than many people, even some of his fans, might expect. Perhaps it's a philosophy borne of the knowledge that West Germany's centre forward has got to be more than good — he has to become a national hero in the mould of Muller or Uwe Seeler.

Goals are of paramount importance, but there is more to it than that.

Fischer says: "I feel I am now in the best possible opening to be the successor of Seeler and Müller. For this I must score a lot of goals — because a centre forward who doesn't score isn't worth his place.

"But . . . the ideal centre forward has to be much more than that. He has to be ready to learn all the time about his role; he has to take the kicks and blows from the men marking him; and he has to know how to take advantage of the slightest error. He needs determination and perseverance to keep going all the time — and he needs to be good with both his head and feet."

Before the start of this season Fischer had scored 128 goals in 248 games for Schalke. That made him the club's top *Bundesliga* scorer, and put him secondonly to Fichtel in the club's list of overall league appearances.

CORINTHIANS WIN AT LAST

South American Round-up by ERIC WEIL

CORINTHIANS, Brazil's most popular club, with a fantastic following not only in its home town of Sao Paulo, but all over Brazil, finally managed to win something again after 23 years — the Sao Paulo State League which they had last won in 1954. Since then the popular club had not been able to win any major title although they lost to Internacional de Porto Alegre in last year's Brazilian national championship finals (amid ugly crowd scenes which I described in World Soccer at the time) and then represented Brazil in this year's Libertadores Cup but failed to get through their first round group.

This year, coached by Oswaldo Brandao, whom they signed as soon as the Brazilian Sports Confederation discarded him as national team coach, they finally made it in the Sao Paulo League by beating Ponte Preta 1-0 in the final match with a goal from Basilio four minutes from the end in front of 90,000 fans, many of whom left the stadium crawling on their knees all the way to the nearest church in compliance with a promise they made if the club won the title.

Later the police announced that by early morning of the following day — the match was played on a week-day — the celebrations had resulted in 15 deaths (eight crimes, five traffic accidents and two heart attacks), 327 fights broken up by police, 234 other incidents of "public disorder", 392 traffic accidents, 10,631 traffic fines and 314 arrests — 217 for being drunk and disorderly and 97 of people damaging cars because they had a licence plate from Ponte Preto's home district.

Cruzeiro, this year's Libertadores Cup finalists won the Minero championship in another close final against their continual rivals Atletico Mineiro by beating them 3-1 after extra time of a nervous encounter in Belo Horizonte which had finished 1-1 at full time.

The Rio Grande do Sul title was also decided by those perpetual Porto Alegre rivals, Internacional and Gremio in a close match which the latter won 1-0 two minutes before the end when fans invaded the field to celebrate the victory and also attacked and injured several Internacional players. By the time order was restored and the referee wanted to continue the match, Internacional had taken their players off the field. Now Internacional claims the "unfinished" match should be replayed and their fans are clamouring for the return of Chilean defender Elias Figueroa who was one of the team's stars before he returned to Chile (to play for Palestino) earlier this year. They want him back at least as coach.

And it was close in Rio also as Vasco da Gama won the second round of the Carioca championship after a play-off with Flamengo in front of 152,000 fans at the Maracanã stadium which was decided on penalties (5-4) after 120 minutes play (including extra time) and produced no goals. This result made a final round for the title unnecessary as Vasco da Gama had also won the first round and ended up with the excellent record of 25 wins, two draws and only one defeat in 28 games.

Brazil's 62 leading clubs, divided into six groups, have now started play in the Brazilian national championship which entails a total of 485 matches and continues until January. The leading 40 go into four second round groups and then the 22 best into two semi-final groups from which the finalists emerge.

Gates fall in Chile

GATES ARE FALLING in Chile and this is placing clubs in financial difficulties as interest lags following Chile's elimination from the World Cup in spite of the close fight for the First Division title.

Ferenc Puskas' Colo Colo dropped from first to third place following four successive draws, but they are still only 10 points from the top which has temporarily been taken over by last year's champions Everton. Union Española are a point behind with nine games to go.

The hard up clubs are behind in payment of their players, many of whom worry more about their financial problems than their soccer which, as a result, suffers. Foreign players continue to score most of the goals — each club can sign as many as four — and Palestino's Argentine forward Fabiani easily tops the scorers table with 25 goals (more than half his side's total 49 in 25 games) followed by Chilean Pereda (Union Española) with 14.

Portuguese run ends

PORTUGUESA, champions for the last three years who became the first team from Venezuela to reach the Libertadores Cup semi-finals this year, had their 16-match unbeaten record stopped by Deportivo Italia.

The latter, best placed of the Caracas teams, are fourth and they won 1-0, but Portuguesa were without their star player, the former Brazilian World Cup forward Jairzinho who makes a lot of difference to the team and who had been suspended for two matches.

But Portuguesa, from Acarigua, still top the professional championship by two points with two clubs from Merida — last year's runners up Estudiantes and Universidad — second and third respectively as interest in soccer continues to grow in Venezuela, particularly in the provinces.

BERTONI TOP

WITH River Plate continuing to be erratic and Boca Junior suffering from what looks like post Libertadores Cup lethargy, Independiente, who have won the Libertadores Cup six times (more than any other club), are making a late challenge for the title in the lengthy Metropolitan First Division in which clubs play twice a week now.

Daniel Bertoni, the hard-shooting forward sent off in the match against England for punching Cherry, has jumped to the top of the scorers table with 22 goals as Independiente have moved to within a point of River Plate at the top of the table with only eight matches to go. They have taken 12 points from their last eight games. And Independiente showed real champion form in their last game before press time, when, after trailing 2-0 to Argentinos Juniors, they scored four goals in the last seven minutes before half time to turn the match around — with two coming from Bertoni.

River Plate, after getting over their bad spell caused mainly by internal problems, went six games without defeat, but have now taken only seven points from their last seven games which is not good enough to hand on to their lead much longer. International Leopolde Luque is frequently their barometer. In a recent match he scored three within 25 minutes and then got himself sent off for a dirty foul. River Plate won 3-1 and Luque got a five-match suspension so they may have problems during his absence.

Fifth-placed champions Boca Juniors seem to be suffering from the not unusual post cup lethargy. After winning the Libertadores Cup amid a lot of bullyhoo for the first time in September, they probably lack motivation to go all out in league games — a state of mind which does not necessarily have to be related to the money involved and which is not easy to overcome. With the cup tournament over, they are fielding full strength teams in the league, although forced to make team changes through injury and suspensions and they have lacked organisation in recent games.

Boca Juniors have taken only 10 points from their last 12 games — 40 per cent — which is hardly good enough to sustain a championship challenge and they are now five points from the top with eight games to go. Boca played with a virtually unchanged team to win the Libertadores Cup, but the many team changes in league games have unsettled them.

GOOD YEAR FOR MONACO

News from France by Andre Duclos

THINGS have been looking up for Monaco this season. Why, even the crowds have reached an ecstatic 5,000 when the norm is nearer two! Joking apart, Monaco are back in the First Division, they are winning matches, they have had a couple of players capped. Some people appear to think it's all a little bit too good to be true, and indeed by the time you read this, it may well be that Monaco will be flagging. But even their detractors admit that they have given something very precious to our championship this season. Call it, if you will, panache.

Under their manager Lucien Leduc, once a left-half who helped France beat England in Paris just after the war, Leduc is in his second spell at Monaco, and is a true inspiration to the team. They believe in attack. Some say that this is because they have no alternative: that their centre-backs are erratic and a little weak, that they have to keep forging and surging ahead to protect themselves at the rear. Maybe. But whatever the reason, Monaco have shown a wonderfully refreshing eagerness to attack, not just at home but, believe it or not in these hard, negative times, away from home, as well. Moreover, they've had Dalger and Petit in the French international team this season.

No small achievement, this, when you think of the competition. For Christian Dalger to gain a belated cap at outside-right, for example, is remarkable indeed whey you think that the man who came on as substitute in the Russian match was none other than . . . Dominique Rocheteau, one of the best wingers in Europe, if not the whole darn world. Then there are the likes of Zimako, who this season has left Bastia for Saint Etienne, Olivier Rouyer of Nancy, and the Nantes man, Bruno Baronchelli; not quite at his effervescent best, perhaps, this season.

Christian Dalger has emerged in no small way this season. Our national team manager, Michel Hidalgo, knew him well from early days: from when he himself was living in Monaco, and from the time he was coaching the Monaco juniors for whom Dalger played. Dalger started this season in a burst of flame, with six goals in the first nine League games. He is not just a good goal scorer, though, but a splendid provider of the final pass from which goals come, a well built player with a slow centre of gravity, a brisk, precise dribble, a tremendous shot, not least from free kicks; but he does not rely merely on force, since he can bend or place the ball, as well. Add to that a fine acceleration, and you have a winger of abundant gifts.

His critics say he is inclined to be a little bit timid. Perhaps. But there is no doubt that this has been a splendid season for the 28-year-old winger, and that he thoroughly deserved his cap against the Russians.

After that first game, he said that he had found it difficult to play in, since the Russians massed in defence. It wasn't the same game as Monaco played, he went on, but with his Monaco skipper, Jeannot, alias Jean Petit, at his side, he could not help but feel at ease. "I could have been better," he admitted. "I didn't do all I do at Monaco, but it is always difficult to say why one day everything goes right, another day less so. The important thing is to keep on doing well with Monaco."

Fashionable club

Of Petit, it has been said that if he played for a fashionable club, such as Saint Etienne, he would long ago have figured in the French midfield. He, too, has had to wait till the age of 28 to taste his first international experience. He too complained of the way the Russians massed in defence and said he was surprised, in as much as they had, after all, been knocked out of the World Cup and might have been expected to come out to play a little.

Were he to play again for France, he said, he would take more risks than he did. There was a moment when he passed to Dalger when he could have gone through alone; and would have done, with Monaco. "I was thinking of the team, perhaps too much. But if I had another chance, I would try to influence the play more: as I do at Monaco." In the 65th minute, both Dalger and Petit were substituted, the former, much to the delight of the crowd at Parc des Princes, by Rocheteau, the latter by Jouve. But it made no difference to the goalless game.

It has been very good to see Marc Berdoll back so soon in the international team, after his return from a disappointing West German experience. Here again, we have strength in depth, with centre-forwards such as Berdoll himself, Lacombe and the fast rising Nantes man, Pecout. Now with Marseille, Bedoll is certainly enjoying his football much more, though he said it was hard work at the beginning, he not having played for eight long months. "I never thought I would get back into the French international team so quickly." Bedoll is only 24 years old, and it may be that we still haven't seen the best of him in France.

Michel Platini (left) in action for France against the Soviet Union at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris. The match ended 0-0.

Talking of right wingers, it may well be that little Joel Tanter of Strasbourg will never play for France, but he is certainly having a splendid season, and if he gets relatively few goals, the one he made for Piasecki against Metz, running half the length of the pitch, was to be remembered. With his abundant red beard and busy little legs, the 26-year-old Tranter is not an orthodox right winger; he believes in popping up all over the line of attack. Piasecki, another 26-year-old, has also been doing well. Paris let him go in the close season and may be sorry now; he is a half-back of solid physique and qualities, with a strong right footed shot, a fine free kick, and a refined technique. He scores goals, too, such as the one made for him so adroitly by Tranter.

If you have gathered that we have a surprisingly evenly balanced League with some good, galloping dark horses, you will be right. There is no cakewalk for a Nantes or a Saint Etienne.

Greenwo keep Eng

ERIC BATTY campaigned for Ron Greenwood to be appointed England manager even before Don Revie resigned. Now with the Football Association looking to find a successor to Mr Revie as the first step to restoring England to the forefront of world football, Eric Batty states his case for giving the job to Ron Greenwood.

REGULAR readers will know that I advocated the appointment of Ron Greenwood as England manager, before the FA actually gave him the nod, and now, following the Luxembourg game in which England struggled to score only two goals, the critics who were prepared to give him time, are largely deserting the ship, putting forward names from all directions.

Some of the people I have seen suggested as the 'permanent' England boss, I find so funny, that I would cry from laughter if it were not so serious. But of course one has to understand (as always) that the popular press specialises in speculation and half truths, so that one can never be sure whether the 'candidate' is being put forward seriously, or whether it's just another bid to stir up controversy . . . and hopefully boost circulation.

My case is that Greenwood must be asked to stay and given at least until after the next World Cup in which to try and build a good England team. I say 'try' because I am not at all sure that we have the players today to give us a good team, but of one thing I am positive. IF ENGLAND DO HAVE THE PLAYERS, THEN GREENWOOD IS THE MAN FOR THE JOB.

To show Greenwood the door after only three games would be an insult, and more than that, it would be to underline that within the FA, they do not know what is involved in creating a team.

Without waiting for the result of the England-Italy game it is already clear that the players in the squad that Revie left are not good enough. But Greenwood's only chance of working a miracle was to try and build on what Revie left behind. *It was essentially a short term policy.*

Given a longer run, I am sure that Greenwood would call a new press conference and ask for patience because it takes time to build a good team. He would start again from scratch, using players in the age group 20 to 24, not as mis-printed in the last issue of *World Soccer* 22-23.

To understand what is involved in team building one must acknowledge right away that the manager-coach of any team is limited by the human material available to him. If he hasn't got the players that he cannot create a good team.

To build a *GREAT* team, which is what we all really want for England, is impossible just now, because for a great team, you *MUST HAVE* at least three or four great players.

Acknowledging that we all have our favourites, and that the newspapers and TV idolises and eulogise over anything that moves and looks a cut above mediocrity, looking at it dispassionately, I cannot see even one truly great player anywhere in England.

Given a few really 'great' players in key positions, then perhaps they could get the best out of men like Pearson and Keegan, but lacking these great players, the only answer is to build, to work and sweat, to create a unit that will be capable of playing together.

But even then, it has to be assumed that the human material needed is available.

To underline this, I recall an experience I had when I was manager-coach of a London senior Amateur team. At one period we had what looked like a very good team that played some very fine football. But our results fluctuated and looking at the side I realised that we were just one player short.

Luckily for me, one of our young reserves began to mature during that season and I began to give him a few games in the first team. By the end of that season he was ready, and the difference could already be seen.

That next season we won the championship — just as I knew we would. We could have done it one year earlier, given that extra player, but alas he was not ready and the player who wore his shirt that first season was not up to the standard required.

This illustrates how important just one man *CAN BE*, and even assuming that Ron Greenwood keeps the England job, that is a situation that he might well find himself in two or three years from now.

But the most vital factor for an international team manager is that he must rely on the clubs providing the human material. If the clubs provide a stream of ready made talent, then it could be quickly harnessed, and given a few games together, it would all click.

Geoff Hurst — who was brought to international stardom by Ron Greenwood at West Ham.

od should land job

This is the fortunate position that the West Germans have been in for several years now.

England are not so lucky, largely because of one factor. This is that all the coaches in the *Bundesliga* have to qualify at the DFB's 'football school' before they can be a manager, *AND THEY ALL LEARN TO COACH THE SAME WAY.*

Fortunately for the West Germans, the DFB way is also the right way, while in England it is not necessary for a First Division club manager to have a coaching certificate, and even if he did, it is not worth the paper it is written on.

Qualified

It may be of interest to know that at one stage in my coaching career, seven of my players were qualified FA coaches . . . while I was not. I am still not qualified, not even holding the preliminary award, and I will not attend any English FA course until they stop preaching rubbish about the game.

The result of this — the lack of responsible and intelligent guidance from above means that England is very, very short indeed of good coaches. Those that are any good have learned the important things about the game from what they have seen abroad, or developed their own ideas.

The tragic point is that with good coaching almost non-existent at club level, the England manager, if he is good, has to start from scratch, and teach the players how he wants them to play.

This is the situation that Greenwood inherited and although I have not seen him work with the England players, I have seen them play under him, and what I have seen leads me to the inevitable conclusion that probably not more than two or three (optimistically) of his squad, had even the most remote idea what he wants from them.

With the team based on Liverpool, and Greenwood choosing largely players that have a certain degree of skill, playing the ball around to feet has not been a big problem. But that is only the start.

Keeping possession of the ball is the root of the game, but it's very heart lies in being able to keep possession of the ball while making forward passes.

The only way that this can be achieved is for the forward passes *to be dropped in short* of the recipient, so that he can come away from his marker to meet the ball. Receiving the ball, the men chosen as the target for the forward pass now needs supporting players to play to, and off they go attacking from there.

It was to demonstrate this technique and help Greenwood get this point across that Geoff Hurst was called up to assist Ron Greenwood. I haven't heard that from Ron himself, but looking at the situation logically I am positive about this point on two counts.

First, Hurst was probably the very best striker in this respect that England have had in years, laying the ball off accurately, first time, with chest, head and foot.

Secondly, I see, week after week, both live and on TV, that the vast majority of English clubs lose possession when they try to go forward because they play 'fight balls' up to their strikers.

This may seem to be a small point to some so let me explain further. A long ball hit up 'towards' the centre forward or winger, in English football is generally a 50-50 ball between the target aimed at, and the man marking him. Such balls are high in the air and have to be fought for — or even hit beyond the striker, for him to chase.

The vast majority of such balls are won by defenders which leads to a breakdown of the attack, and balls hit beyond the markers are picked up and cleared by every continental team who plays with a *libero* standing back behind the line of defenders.

The only space that can be used is that in front of the centre forward. The space between the centre forward and the man passing to him. Play the ball in short of the target and a good front man who is expecting such a ball should be able to find a colleague first time so that the attack carry on.

It is a fundamental difference between the way most English teams play and the way that West Ham *have tried to play* for years. That West Ham have failed to make much impact on the game is not due to Ron or John Lyall their new coach, but *BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT THE RIGHT HUMAN MATERIAL TO WORK WITH.*

As a small club, they have not been able to buy the men they would like. It is already clear to me that Greenwood must be given the benefit of having ten day get-togethers before international matches, for if clubs do not coach their players the right way . . . as they do in West Germany and to a large degree in Holland, then Greenwood must do it himself.

For that he needs time, not only the ten day training sessions with his players but also a long period to work with them.

Given the need for immediate results Ron Greenwood had no option but to try and do it with the men he inherited. But after the Italy game the pressure will be off, and the England team will have a chance to make a fresh start.

If they are to be successful in the long term then a team must be created that can keep possession of the ball going forward which is where so many English club teams fall down. Unable to progress that way, they resort to hitting long balls for the strikers to chase, but though that may work in the Football League, it will not pay off against top class foreign opposition.

Believe me, I have seen Ron Greenwood work at this very point in his days as coach of West Ham and it was fundamental in making such good players like Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters.

I have also seen so many other English clubs hitting long hopeful balls upfield, presumably because they have never been coached to do otherwise or because they cannot understand what is required.

I also know that the way Greenwood works is the way that the best coaches on the continent work, and in West Germany in particular, they *ALL WORK THIS WAY.*

If England appoint any other man, then I predict now that we shall go bumbling on in the same old way, beating teams like Cyprus and Malta 5-0 but losing to the good teams, just as we lost 0-2 to Holland recently and as we lost 1-3 to West Germany at Wembley in Ramsey's time.

We need a fundamental change at the top. And Ron Greenwood is the only man I know who can work the miracle for England.

Give him the chance to choose his own players, let him have ten day coaching sessions and in two years you will see an England team that can meet the likes of Holland and West Germany on equal terms.

Let Ron Greenwood go off again into semi retirement and it will put English football back for at least another decade, perhaps more. For the fact is that what pays dividends in the English game does not work against top class foreign opposition. It doesn't even work against teams like Switzerland and many more before them who have sneaked away from Wembley with a draw.

Give Greenwood time and he will produce a team, through hard graft and by passing on his ideas, that will tear the likes of Switzerland to pieces and give a good account of themselves against the best the world can offer.

There is a terrible danger that people, particularly those with influence at the FA, will pay attention to the newspapers, and comments of some of our top managers who want the job.

In football there are no miracles, and no magicians, everything you get has to be worked for.

The West Germans, coaching at club level, the right way, have had a find record in recent years. World Cup finalists in 1966, third place in 1970, winners in 1974, and in the European championship, never having entered before, winners with a great side in 1972, and beaten finalists (on penalties) in 1976. But the Germans do the job of coaching at club level.

England's record on the other hand is dismal. *WE HAVE NOT QUALIFIED FOR A WORLD CUP SINCE 1962.* And we have twice failed in the European championship.

If we are to reverse this trend, it must be through a more intelligent approach to the game, based on better coaching. With the clubs failing to do the job, it must be done by the England manager himself and the only man I know who can do that is Ron Greenwood.

World Cup finalists
ARGENTINA
by Eric Weil

WILL ME
OR WILL LORENZ

WHILE many players, coaches and journalists from Europe (who were in Buenos Aires when Argentina played seven European teams in a row earlier this year) felt that Argentina would be one of the World Cup favourites, opinions at home are far less optimistic.

A local "sport" for fans, perhaps also in many other parts of the world, is to strongly criticise the national soccer team unless it wins every match and although Argentina's national team may not presently be among the best, local fans expect too much after so many of the top stars have left the country to play mostly for European clubs. Apart from that, the present standard of league soccer in Argentina is very poor, so how can they expect a brilliant national team to emerge from poor club teams.

Argentine fans — and the press — also tend to expect too much from an international match. Most of these matches were criticized as poor (apart from the one against West Germany) while they were not all that bad. There were only too many stoppages and the time the ball was actually in play was rarely much more than 50 minutes out of the 90. Only the last game in the series, against East Germany, had two thirds of actual play (65 minutes) . . . but this time wasting on the soccer pitch is not only a local development.

For the record, Argentina beat Poland 3-1, lost to World Cup holders West Germany 1-3, drew 1-1 with England and Scotland, drew 0-0 with France, beat Yugoslavia 1-0 and East Germany 2-0 (in that order), a record of three wins, three draws and one defeat (goals 9-6) in seven matches played in Buenos Aires within 43 days. They may not have faced all the best teams in the world, but they played European teams with different tactics (although Scotland, France and Yugoslavia showed some of the virtues and faults of the South American game) and a good picture emerges — the clearest fact being that this Argentine team is not good enough to win the World Cup.

Twenty one players were tried out by Argentina (14 coming on as substitutes) and it showed:

The defence is not clearing the ball fast enough, often tending to play it out of the defensive zone with too many square passes and thus throwing away the opportunity of surprise counter attack. Often the defence lacked understanding and was put in difficulties by high centres. Four of the five goals scored against it in actual play were headers from high centres — West Germany getting all their three goals in this way.

Carrascosa, the captain, was the safest defender and Gallego did little wrong when defending although he is too heavy and slow and has his limitations against fast attackers or when moving up. Repeatedly tried Olguin and Tarantini are not of international standard, while Pernia (sent off against Scotland for punching and spitting at an opponent) lacks self-control.

Half Cavaldo Ardiles was Argentina's best player in the recent series of international matches against European teams in Buenos Aires.

Ironically Argentina's defence is at its best when attacking. Passarella, a leading scorer in the league (with penalties, free kicks, headers from corners and also an occasional field goal) is well known for his scoring potential. Apart from his two penalties he headed another goal to end up as joint top scorer (with Bertoni). Carrascosa netted a fourth defender's goal out of the nine scored and came close on several other occasions.

The halves are good ball players, but they frequently exceed in midfield play, thus also stopping the possibility of surprise counter attack. Hard-working Ardiles (together with Carrascosa) was the best player over the seven matches although he is presently not in top form and many criticised the small half's inclusion.

The tall Villa was brilliant at times, but not so steady. Galvan is a good marker and popular because he is a fighter at all times, but that does not mean he is better than the others, although often preferred. All of them occasionally shone in attack to show up the failings of the forwards, but what Argentina badly misses, specially in midfield is a leader to impose his character on the rest of the team . . . and for this there is nobody to fill the bill.

The attack was shot shy with only Bertoni willing to have a go with the slightest chance. His four-match suspension after the game against England (in which he was sent off for punching Cherry) left the team virtually without fire power. It was also apparent that all Argentina's rotating and probing was useless against tight and well drilled defences as all their rivals lined up. Only five goals were scored in actual play in the seven games by Argentina and when Houseman opened the score against East Germany in the last match he ended a spell of 408 minutes during which the team had failed to score in play.

Argentina's attack lacked surprise, but this, as mentioned earlier, was not entirely the attack's fault. Slow clearing in defence and excessive midfield dilly-dallying meant that by the time the attack reached goal it was faced by a complete defence already in position.

Unstoppable

Winger Houseman may have been virtually unstoppable, but it was nearly always an individual effort so that for all the danger he threatened, he only scored one goal. Houseman was actually suspended by his club, Huracan, before the first of these international matches. This kept him out of the first four games — something which would probably not have happened in another country.

Luque, in the centre, did not live up to his reputation and was rarely in the picture. He tends to hang on to the ball too long and although this helps by drawing the defence towards himself, he still doesn't make the best use of his potential. But it was unfortunate for Argentina that first Houseman's and then Bertoni's suspension never allowed coach Luis Menotti to field the Bertoni-Luque-Houseman attack he wanted. Under the circumstances some opportunist goal scorer, of which there are several in the league, should have been brought in.

Overall the team showed it could play better at a slower pace . . . which they will rarely get a chance to do during the World Cup finals. This is not because the players are not fast enough, but because their thinking is slow. When Menotti said recently that when an Argentine player loses the ball it takes him a minute to realise that the game continues, he may have been stretching a point . . . but it was a good point.

Often it also looked as if rivals had a much better idea of what they were trying to do on the field while Argentina gave the impression of improvising as they went along. I really believe that to have a chance of winning the World Cup next year, Argentina will have to play with the rhythm, precision and speed which West Germany showed in beating them 3-1 . . . and they look a long way from that.

Although many of the faults mentioned appear to be technical, coach Menotti can not

NOTTI SURVIVE O TAKE OVER?

be blamed for everything that goes wrong (as most people here seem to think). He said not so long ago that it is up to the player to do 95% towards success and although here again he may have been stretching his point, it is a point that should not be forgotten . . . which brings us back to the fact that poor league soccer can not automatically be transferred to outstanding play at international level.

Argentina might have obtained slightly better results — particularly in the 1-1 draws with England and Scotland — if the players had remained calm and concentrated on playing soccer . . . and in the World Cup they may not be so lucky again with weak refereeing. The entire series was refereed by South American referees who are prone to favouring the home team. England's Cherry and Scotland's Johnston were sent off together with Bertoni and Pernia when it was obvious, even to the local press, that only the Argentine players should have been given marching orders. A strong willed referee would also have sent off goalkeeper Gatti when he grabbed Fischer and threw him to the ground as the West German was heading for goal.

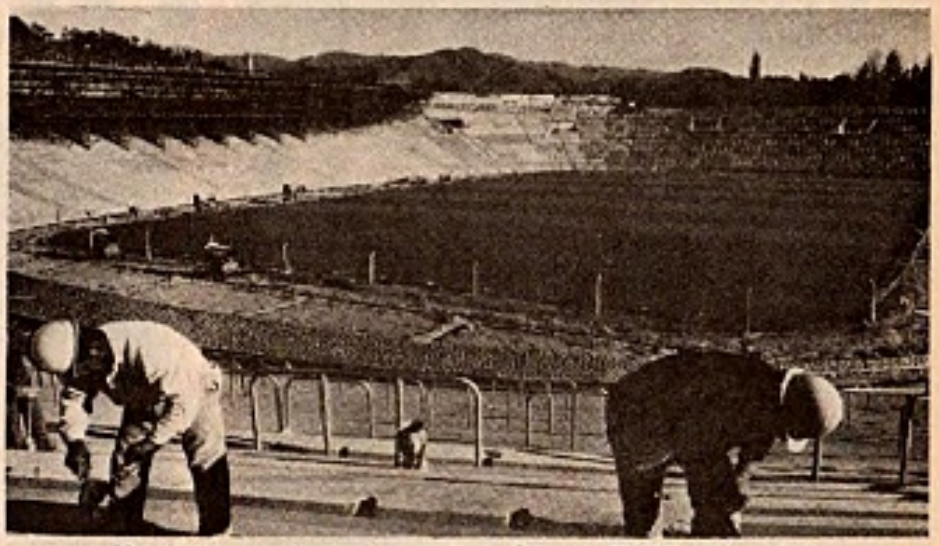
Several players have shown better form than that during these international games and further team changes with players available at home may or many not bring improvement. That is anybody's guess and often a matter of luck. Menotti's job is all the harder as he imposes a style in the national team which hardly any of the clubs from which he draws his players uses.

Transfers

The fact is that Argentina could form a national team from players with European clubs which would be better and more experienced than the present one. This is largely the Argentine FA's fault. They dilly dallied too long before finally deciding last year to ban transfers abroad of players needed for World Cup duty. It was a case of shutting the gate after the horse had bolted, because by then all the big stars — such as Kempes, Wolff, Piazza, Bianchi, Scotta, Alonso (now back), Brindisi, Babington, etc. had left.

Wolff, as well as Bargas and Heredia (also playing in Europe) could strengthen the defence. Piazza could add much needed height while he, as well as Babington or Brindisi could provide the midfield authority and leadership which the team so badly needs. The lack of goal scoring power would be remedied by Kempes and Scotta (also Bianchi) who were leading scorers in international matches before they left.

So in this recent series of international games played by Argentina may not have seen the line up likely to take the field for their opening World Cup game in Buenos Aires next June. We may not even have seen



Mendoza's new World Cup stadium. Capacity 50,000, half seated.

the same coach. Menotti has held the job longer than his predecessors — since September 1974 — but, going by past history, the local custom is to throw the coach overboard shortly before the World Cup and with the pressure on him and the continual criticism from all sides, the same thing could happen again . . . although FA president Alfredo Cantilo has repeatedly said that it will not.

Many favour Juan Carlos Lorenzo who was Argentina's coach in the 1962 and 1966 World Cups and took Boca Juniors to the First Division and national titles here last year . . . and to the Libertadores Cup a few months ago with rough, ugly defence and counter attack play. English and Scottish journalists in Buenos Aires to cover the games against Argentina complained bitterly about Argentina's rough play. They should wait and see what happens if Lorenzo were to take over again.

Forward Leopoldo Luque (9) tended to hang on to the ball too long and did not live up to his goalscoring potential.

NATIONAL TEAM IS SETTLED...

SEVEN months before they open the defence of the world championship title, the West Germans already seem to have a settled and well prepared team for the supreme task. After the 2-1 win over Italy's strong side in a friendly, the Germans received rave notices from all over Europe. It was a vintage performance which prompted the watching England manager Ron Greenwood to enthuse:

"You saw champagne football. This game was an education, totally different from what you see in England every week. If the match could have been transplanted to Wembley, people would realise what they are missing. I was so taken with it that I'd be prepared to come to Germany and see matches like this every week."

Amid the flowing praise and general euphoria it must be pointed out that this German side, for all its brilliance, will almost certainly fall apart after the World Cup series. Then, the already nominated new manager Jupp Derwall (Helmut Schön is retiring after Argentina '78), will have to build a new team. Of the side who defeated Italy in Berlin, six men, plus the substitute, are either close to, or over, 30. Goalkeeper Maier, (33), defenders Vogts (30) and Dietz (29), schemers Flöhe (29) and Beer (30) plus winger Volkert (31) and his sub. Hölzenbein (31).

Incidentally, those foreign observers impressed by the German winger Rummenigge missed seeing the very best orthodox wing forward — Rüdiger Abramczik, who was absent through injury. Much has been made in the English Press of the fact that the West Germans use a B-team to groom their budding stars.

But in actual fact most of the players selected for these games, usually staged on the eve of the senior international, regard it as a pain in the neck! There is rarely a big crowd and thus little atmosphere, the players know that they are just among those not good enough for the first team and because of constant changes they don't know each other too well.

Subsequently there is rarely the rhythm and cohesion expected of a side which performs together regularly. On the other hand, what those English experts forgot to mention (or probably didn't know), is that the Germans are not running an "Under-21-Team" (like England, among others), and therefore use these B-matches as a testing ground.

Dino Zoff (left) and Sepp Maier (right) . . . the custodians of Italy and West Germany.

The West German Football Federation suggested to the English FA that on the eve of the full international (in Munich on February 22), they should play a B-international at Augsburg. But the English officials had to refuse on the grounds that the Football League would not sanction such a fixture!

Then why in heaven's name could they not agree to send instead the England "Under-21" side which is apparently being groomed for the next World Cup? The youngsters could use the German fixture as a warm up for the European Championship quarter-finals due in March.

Germany's international future looks good on the evidence of several young players breaking through. Manager Helmut Schön has often been accused of not being adventurous enough in his selections and of sticking to the "old guard", but actually Herr Bundestrainer (his official title, meaning federal coach) has capped no fewer than 50 players since the World Cup was won in 1974!

Sepp Maier saves for West Germany against Italy. Picture by Peter Robinson.

News from West Germany by Arthur Rotmil

The West German team which played against Italy recently . . . winning 2-1.

Keegan yet to fit in

HAMBURG'S much heralded challenge for the title seems to be fizzling out gradually and the relationship between the dogmatic general manager Dr. Krohn and the new coach Rudi Gutendorf finally reached breaking point.

As I forecast in *WORLD SOCCER* (July issue), the "honeymoon" between these two extroverts did not last very long. Dr. Krohn's position within the club became untenable and he has offered his resignation. Gutendorf, weary of the arguments and under fire for lack of success, was given a two-month leave of absence!

The team is being managed temporarily by his assistant, the former goalkeeper, Turkish-born Arkoc Oeczan.

Of course, Hamburg's surprising home defeat (1-2) by Anderlecht in the repeat of last season's Cup Winners' Cup final contributed to these managerial upheavals. Even the bonus of £2,500 per man, promised if the crowd exceeds 40,000 and if the team qualifies, appeared not enough to motivate the side above the current disappointing form.

Where all that leaves Kevin Keegan, remains to be seen, but I shouldn't be surprised if he is also temporarily "put on ice", since he clearly does not fit into this team.

The title race continues to be the most exciting for many years. Already five different *Bundesliga* leaders have been toppled and frankly, except for poor 1860 Munich who are firmly nailed to the bottom, anybody can beat any other team — the levelling up has been one of the great features of the current League campaign. Schalke are favoured by many to win the *Bundesliga* — the club have been champions seven times, but never since the formation of the National League. With a forward trio which reads: Abramczik, Fischer, Erwin Kremers, the talented Bongartz in midfield, the international stopper Rüssmann and the brilliant goalkeeper Volkmar Gross, the Gelsenkirchner seem to be well served in key positions.

Cologne continued to infuriate its supporters with inconsistent performances, but Dieter Müller, still smarting from being overtaken by Fischer as the national team's No. 1 centre forward, has been hitting back at his critics with goals and he led the *Bundesliga* scorer's list with 14 (from 12 matches) to Fischer's seven.

Cologne have made history by becoming the first *Bundesliga* club to sign a Japanese player. He is Yasuhiko Okudera 25, from FC Furukava (Yokohama), who holds 42 caps and is fast, has a powerful shot and lots of courage. He cost Cologne about £75,000.

Among the title contenders one must not leave out Eintracht Braunswich who are also going well in the UEFA-Cup, but unhappily are beset with internal problems. Their Yugoslav manager Branco Zebec, who has been ill recently, is thinking of leaving at the end of the season, while their ace centre forward Wolfgang Frank has already left for Borussia Dortmund.

This striker, on the threshold of the national team, was sought by Borussia Mönchengladbach, but Dortmund apparently offered better terms and so Frank has decided to join them. Breitner is still playing well, but whether this will persuade Helmut Schön to take him back into the national side, is another matter. Breitner has been known (while with Real Madrid), to say that he didn't care if he was never picked again and such statements are not exactly likely to endear him to the national chief.

Another club with hopes of the title are Eintracht Frankfurt, who many claim play the most "aesthetic" football in Germany. Manager Guyla Lorant would like a bit more consistency from some of his stars, excepting the famous Jurgen Grabowski who is playing probably the best football of his career and who is rated here the best midfield player in Europe!

Borussia, who are determined to try and wrest the Champions' Cup from Liverpool, have been putting up some stunning performances in the away legs of the current tournament. In Round One they beat Vasas in Budapest by 3-0 and with the same score they annihilated the famous Red Star of Yugoslavia before a crowd of 100,000 in Belgrade. Many experts think that the German champions will have a better chance if they meet Liverpool in a two-legged tie.

But meanwhile it is acknowledged throughout Europe that the way to this season's European Champions Cup must lead past Juventus, quite the best team in the competition right now. Borussia's redoubtable striker Jupp Heynckes is enjoying a fine comeback after being plagued by injury but he is getting on in years, as is midfielder Herbert Wimmer — surely in his last season — and captain Berti Vogts. In goal Wolfgang Kleff has again claimed his place after a poor run by Wolfgang Kneib.

Because Liverpool were not interested in a world club championship meeting with South America's champions Boca Juniors (Argentina), the Gladbacher, as beaten European finalists have stepped in. Provisional dates: December 20 in Buenos Aires, March 27 at home.

The current holders of the world title, Bayern Munich, have been making progress in the UEFA-Cup but their championship aspirations were being denied through losing to unfancied opponents. The Bavarians were shocked in the DFB-Cup when they had been knocked out by FC Homburg (Second Division South) by 3-1! Obviously the team had underestimated the opposition and paid dearly with an early exit.

The pairings in the next round of the Cup: FC Homburg v. Hertha Berlin; Borussia Mönchengladbach v. Vfl. Bochum; Fortuna Düsseldorf v. Eintracht Brunswick; FC Cologne v. Karlsruher SC; Schalke v. Hamburger SV; Schwarz-Weiss Essen v. Westfalia Herne; Werder Bremen v. 1860 Munich; TuS Langerwehe (Amateurs!) v. MSV Duisburg.

Bayern missed their midfield "dynamo" Jupp Kapellmann who after being sent off against Saarbrucken was suspended for eight matches! Team mate Josef Weiss, who got the red card against Schalke, was also banned for eight games.

Roberto Bettaga of Italy.

EUROPEAN

GROWING confidence in Italy about World Cup prospects was reflected in the buoyant interest in anything to do with international soccer.

And the likelihood that Italy will be chosen to stage the revamped 1980 European championship finals added to the feeling that the *Azzurri* are back on the road as an international force.

Six nations had applied to stage the finals — Italy, England, Switzerland, West Germany, Holland and Greece. The choice was reduced to one between Italy and England by the UEFA executive committee — much to the disgust of the Swiss, who protested that Italy had staged the 1968 finals and that England's hooligan fans didn't deserve the accolade.

Certainly the record of English fans in Europe — bearing in mind the trouble at games between Saint-Etienne and Manchester United, Luxembourg and England — gave the Italians all the more confidence that the final decision would go their way.

The chance to stage the finals means automatic qualification as hosts. But one great Italian won't be there — wherever the finals are staged. Giacinto Facchetti, looking forward to his 94th international appearance against England at Wembley, announced that he will quit after this season and concentrate on becoming a coach.

"I learnt so much from my years under Helenio Herrera, and I think I can build on that and add some of my own ideas," said Facchetti, who is now 35. Facchetti made his league debut in 1960-61 and has played only for Inter at senior level. His decision

BAD START FOR TORINO

KIDNAPPING has become known generally as the 'Italian crime', and Calcio received a sharp reminder recently that even its most famous figures aren't immune.

After Torino president Orfeo Pianelli paid a massive ransom demand, his grandson Giorgio was returned apparently none the worse for the experience — though it clearly put years on the 57-year-old Pianelli.

The incident spread a wave of cautionary zeal through Italian soccer, as clubs and players decided on a new look at family security. But, all in all, the new season hasn't been going too well for Torino.

Runners-up last season, champions the year before, Gigi Radice's team have lost a lot of confidence. Defeats by Roma in the first game of the season, and then away to Foggia were only partly assuaged by a 1-0 win over Internazionale. The goal came from Francesco Graziani after 61 minutes, but Inter were without the injured Giacinto Facchetti and Torino needed to rely on some smart goalkeeping from Luciano Castellini to make sure of the two points.

Radice dropped young midfielder Eraldo Pecci for this match and gave up, for the time being, thoughts of turning Renato Zaccarelli into his regular sweeper. Zaccarelli was back in midfield alongside the Sala brothers, Claudio and Patrizio.

Considering that Torino lost only once last season, yet this term have gone down twice and struggled to beat a weak Cypriot team in the UEFA Cup, it's hard to see what's gone wrong.

Certainly Pecci's poor form didn't help, but Paolino Pulici is more than ever disappointing in away matches, compared with the different player who trots out when Torino are playing in the Stadio Municipale.

Radice remains optimistic. "We are used to fighting our way out of difficulty — we'll do it again this time," he said. "Remember in Düsseldorf last year we hung on against Borussia for a 0-0 draw with only eight men and Graziani in goal?

"That's the kind of spirit that will see us through again. And, if the senior players can't do it, we've plenty of useful reserves all waiting for a chance to show what they can do."

Pecci wasn't long on the sidelines, however, and when he did return it was to a team who looked as if Radice might well be right. Facing surprise early league leaders Genoa, Torino found a vestige of last season's form to win 3-1.

Pulici gave 'Toro' a fine start with a goal in the eighth minute. Graziani added a penalty soon after half-time, and Pecci made the game safe six minutes from the end. For Genoa, Giuseppe Damiani — the former Juventus striker — scored in the 31st minute.

It was a win which lifted Torino up to fifth, just two points behind leaders Milan.

But if Torino considered themselves in crisis, what's the word for the plight of poor Bologna? Last season they escaped the ignominy of relegation for the first time in their history only by the skin of their teeth. It looks as though they're in for another agonising year. Having won only one of their first six games, Bologna have problems not only on the pitch but off it.

President Luciano Conti's five-year reign is looking more and more insecure, mainly because of an attempted coup being led by Bologna's recently retired Italian international midfielder, Giacomo Bulgarelli. Bulgarelli says that if he were given control he would be able to straighten out all the problems and bring in a new coach with the fresh enthusiasm and ability to put life back into the team.

Giovanni Trapattoni — recently named as trainer of the year — would be his choice.

Conti, however, shows no willingness to stand down despite the prompting from many angry fans. It's just a bad phase we're passing through as we rebuild, he says.

Under Conti, Bologna finished seventh in 1973, then eighth in 1974 when they also won the cup, seventh again in 1975 and 1976, and 13th last season. Now they are 14th in the 16-club *Serie A* — and they would be one place lower if young Stefano Chiodi hadn't snatched a fortunate late equaliser away to Verona.

Also with domestic problems are Napoli, in recent years the only threat to the Turin monopoly since the demise of a serious Milan challenge. With their new signings fitting together only slowly for new coach Giuseppe Di Marzio, the club are sitting in mid-table — two games won, two games drawn, two games lost.

CHAMPIONSHIP FOR ITALY?

to retire is no surprise, but of course it does add to the sense of revolution in Italian soccer which has, in the past 12 months, lost major 'names' such as Sandro Mazzola, Gigi Riva and Tarcisio Burgnich.

Not that this need worry Enzo Bearzot, or Inter, too seriously. Bearzot has the young Juventus sweeper, Gaetano Scirea, waiting to replace Facchetti in the national team; Inter have 22-year-old Graziano Bini itching to take over.

Bearzot, pleased with his senior team's performances in the 2-1 defeat by West Germany and the 6-1 World Cup win over Finland, had some promising results going for him too in the European under-21 championship.

Italy's 4-1 victory over Portugal at Vicenza put them top of their group on goal difference — 8-2, against the Portuguese figures of 4-5. Both have four points, while the third team in the group, Luxembourg, are pointless. Portugal were expected to win at home to Luxembourg, leaving the Italians to visit Luxembourg on November 12 knowing exactly how many goals they would need to qualify.

Where have I heard something similar?

Milan back at the top

News from Italy by Keir Radnedge

BACK AT the top of the table — albeit just one point clear — are Milan, after a four-year absence from the upper reaches.

Not only that, but the evergreen Gianni Rivera is equal top scorer in *Serie A* with four goals, after contributing one in the 2-0 win over Foggia which lifted Milan into the lead.

Milan returned to the top after a 2-1 win away to Roma. Goals by Albertino Bigon and Fabio Capello meant Milan were level on points with Juventus, Genoa and Perugia. And that game, in Rome's Stadio Olimpico, was a particularly satisfying occasion for Rivera.

Three years ago, when Milan took on Gustavo Giagnoni, the new man told then president Albino Buticchi that Rivera was too old and too slow, and Milan would do best to cut their losses and try to exchange him for Torino's Claudio Sala (Giagnoni had previously been with Torino).

Rivera took an instant dislike to Giagnoni and, as regular readers of my reports in *World Soccer* will know, Rivera's fight to stay with his beloved *Rossoneri* ended up with him ousting Buticci and dismissing Giagnoni. Now, in Rome, Rivera and Giagnoni faced up again — this time with Giagnoni coach of Roma.

Impression

Milan had another reason for wanting to do well — coach Nils Liedholm returned north during the summer after several seasons with Roma, and he wanted to make a good impression. Roma went ahead with a fourth-minute goal from Giacomo Chinellato and it took Milan a little while to find their feet. Bigon's equaliser came in the 18th minute, Capello's winner six minutes from time.

Not that there was a lot of honour in victory — Roma's bright young team has been decimated by injuries. But Giagnoni took defeat hard.

"Rivera's getting old now, and he looks it too," said the coach. Then he remembered his manners: "It's a great pity for Milan and Italian soccer. You know, I've never disputed his great ability."

Rivera, for his part, wasn't satisfied. Milan, he thought, needed to realise the need for hard work from the start of the 90 minutes to the end if they were to regain their former eminence.

"I think some of the boys sometimes believe it's enough just to pull on the red and black jersey and we'll win. Football's not like that."

Milan had taken advantage of the break for the internationals against West Germany and Finland to go to Rio for a sparring match with Brazil. They lost 3-0, but Liedholm and Rocco returned unimpressed by what they had seen of the former triple world champions.

And the Italian party were quick to take issue with Brazilian coach Claudio Coutinho, who had boasted: "Today we showed that Brazil are still the strongest in the world."

Rocco shook his head remembering these words.

"Certainly this Brazil is a strong team," said the old campaigner. "But I'd like to see them against our *Azzurri*. Could they afford to attack with eight men against Italy? I don't think so. Could Leao in goal get away with his poor positioning when you have a man around like Bettega? I don't think so. I think Italy would beat Brazil, and not find it too much trouble."

Liedholm added: "The Brazilians couldn't run the game against Italy the way we let them take over. Remember we had nothing really to play for. No incentive. They'd find us a different team if we had played up to our championship form."

Rivelino, Zico and Serginho scored for Brazil who didn't impress two other observers — New York Cosmos' coach Eddie Firmani, and centre-forward Giorgio Chinaglia.

Chinaglia, former centre-forward for Italy and Lazio, was brief, but to the point: "We (Italy, that is) would put four goals past this Brazil, no problem."

Help

Back to the league, and on towards the top of the table. Though Milan needed some help to go one point clear. First Genoa lost 3-1 to Torino, while Milan were beating Foggia, then Juventus and Perugia played out a 0-0 draw.

And a tragic match that was.

For 24-year-old midfielder Renato Curi of Perugia collapsed in the centre of the pitch after 50 minutes and died of a heart attack on the way to hospital.

Curi had been with Perugia for four years, having helped them up out of the second division two years ago. News of his death reached the stadium just after the end of the game, and threw a pall over all the aftermatch inquests into the result and what effect it might have on the championship.

Curi, who leaves a widow and a daughter, had, ironically, been doubtful for the game because of an ankle injury.

Referees changed

NINE different officials were used to handle the first 13 games in the second qualifying round of the World Cup in the CONCACAF Tournament but they bore little resemblance to the appointments listed in the September issue of FIFA News. In fact only five of the official match appointments matched the FIFA list and the teams far from knowing in advance who the officials would be as the FIFA list seemed to indicate, didn't know until they walked on to the field who the referees and linesmen would be.

Mike Wuertz (U.S.A.), Luis Pestarino (Argentina), Ramon Barreto (Uruguay), Luis Paulino Siles (Costa Rica), Toros Kibritjian (U.S.A.), Jose Luis Valverde (Costa Rica), Ramon Calderon (Cuba), Carlyle Crockwell (Bermuda) and Rudolph Moses (Netherlands Antilles) were the officials in charge of those first 13 games.

Here is how the official appointments matched the original FIFA list. Guatemala v. Surinam (Wuertz), Canada v. El Salvador (Pestarino), Mexico v. Haiti (Barreto), Canada v. Surinam (Crockwell appointed, Siles used), Haiti v. Guatemala (Calderon appointed, Pestarino used), Mexico v. El Salvador (Wuertz appointed, Kibritjian used), Mexico v. Surinam (Siles appointed, Valverde used), Canada v. Guatemala (Barreto), Haiti v. El Salvador (Moses appointed, Calderon used), Mexico v. Guatemala (Pestarino), El Salvador v. Surinam (Freundt appointed, Crockwell used), Canada v. Haiti (Siles appointed, Valverde used), Mexico v. Canada (Calderon appointed, Moses used).

MEXICO QUALIFY

from COLIN JOSE

MEXICO have qualified for the final round of the 1978 World Cup by virtue of winning the second qualifying round in the CONCACAF region. The Mexicans won all five of their games in the group beating Haiti 4-1, El Salvador 3-1, Surinam 8-1, Guatemala 2-1 and Canada 3-1.

Haiti, finalists from this area in 1974, finished in second place while Canada and El Salvador tied for third. Bringing up the rear were Guatemala and Surinam.

The tournament was virtually settled in the first two days as El Salvador upset Canada 2-1 and Mexico beat Haiti 4-1 — thus the two teams who were expected to provide the main challenge to Mexico were already in a position where they had to come from behind.

Canada gave one of its poorest displays in some time against El Salvador at a time when a top class effort was required. As it was Ramirez Zapata scored twice in the 43rd and 83rd minutes to give El Salvador a two goal edge before Brian Budd got one back for Canada with one minute to go.

Both El Salvador goals came from defensive errors by Canada, the first when full back John McGrane failed to clear the ball from in front of his own goal and Zapata robbed him and the second when the Canadians failed to form their defensive wall properly and Zapata took full advantage of the free kick.

Against Mexico, Haiti were more than holding their own until Mexican coach Jose Antonio Roca brought on 19-year-old striker Victor Rangel for Alfredo Jimenez. Rangel obliged by scoring a hat-trick while Hugo Sanchez got number four for Mexico. Earlier Arsene Auguste, who plays for the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the North American Soccer League scored for Haiti.

On the same day as Canada were losing to El Salvador in Monterrey, Guatemala, a team some people thought might be the dark horse, narrowly defeated Surinam with Mario Alfaro getting the winning goal in a 3-2 win five minutes from time.

Four days later Canada outplayed Surinam by a wide margin in the Azteca Stadium but failed to take full advantage and in the end gained a narrow 2-1 win. Canada scored first through Buzz Parsons after 33 minutes while a crowd of about 40,000 looked on. Five minutes before half time Olmberg tied it up for Surinam on a penalty kick.

At half time Canada brought on Zeljko Bilecki in goal for Tony Chursky who was suffering from concussion and Brian Budd for Victor Kodelja who had injured a knee. Before the game was over Budd was carried off with a broken leg and Canada played the last 15 minutes with ten men.

Jammed

Midfielder Gene Strenicer who had laid on Parsons' goal set up Mike Bakic for Canada's winning goal in the 75th minute by which time Azteca Stadium was jammed with 108,000 fans who had arrived to see the second game between Mexico and El Salvador.

Once again it was Rangel who was the hero for Mexico. Raul Cardenas gave Mexico the lead in the 37th minute and Rangel made it 2-0 in the 59th minute. Ramirez Zapata of El Salvador was sent off by referee Toros Kibritjian of the United States in the 60th minute but still El Salvador came back to make it 2-1 on an own goal. Rangel got number three for Mexico right on time.

On October 15 action switched back to Monterrey as Mexico put themselves in an almost impregnable position by beating Surinam 8-1. Surinam tried to play a zone defence and it didn't work as Mexico scored at will after Olmberg once again from a penalty had given Surinam the lead. Mexico scored through Rangel, Raul Isiordia (2), Hugo Sanchez (2), Alfredo Jimenez (2) and Rafael Chavez.

Canada were back in action at the Azteca Stadium a day later and kept their chances alive be beating Guatemala 2-1. Canada took the lead in the 21st minute on a beautiful header by Buzz Parsons and Bobby Lenarduzzi made it 2-0 in the 34th minute.

At this time Canada were by far the better team but in the second half coach Eckhard Krautzun had the team try to hold on to their lead and this gave Guatemala the upper hand. Mario Alfaro made it 2-1 with 12 minutes left to play and in the end Canada were just hanging on.

Earlier in the tournament Haiti had beaten Guatemala by the same score and now they defeated El Salvador 1-0 on a goal from Emmanuel Sanon and this put both Haiti and Canada in a position where they were the main challengers to Mexico but the position was such that they both needed help from Guatemala in order to stand any real chance of catching the Mexicans.

They very nearly got it as the Mexicans narrowly defeated Guatemala 2-1 before a crowd of 80,000 on goals from Victor Rangel and a penalty from Vazquez Ayala. Mitrovich scored for Guatemala. Now it all hinged on the Canada-Haiti game to be played in Monterrey.

Both nations play under German coaches — Canada under Eckhard Krautzun and Haiti under Joseph Piontek and both are defence orientated and so in a rather dour game Haiti took the lead through Dorsainville in the 78th minute but the Canadians with virtually the last kick of the game equalised through Mike Bakic. The game eliminated both nations and gave Mexico the championship and in the process made the game between Canada and Mexico purely academic.

All along most Mexicans had considered the Canadians to be their main opposition and the Mexico-Canada game in Monterrey was expected to be the decider. However, Canada's early defeat by El Salvador had altered all that. Still throughout the tournament Canada had assumed the role

Mexico . . . winners of the CONCACAF round of the World Cup.

played by England during the World Cup finals in 1970 and the England players who were in Mexico in 1970 will know only too well what that means.

Canada of course were the only team in the tournament from the northern hemisphere as distinct from the Latin or Caribbean world and as such their style is similar to that of the northern European nations. As a result of course they suffered from the usual differences in rule interpretations.

The Canadians were particularly incensed at the officiating of Jose Luis Valverde of Costa Rica who refereed their game with Haiti. The same official was on the line when Canada met Mexico in Monterrey and once again brought the wrath of the Canadians on his head.

Amazement

Canada took the lead against Mexico in the ninth minute as Buzz Parsons slipped between the Mexican defence to hook a free kick from Bob Bolitho into the net. At this time the Canadians were on top and they continued to have the edge until the 34th minute when Senor Valverde intervened. He called referee Rudolph Moses of the Netherlands Antilles over and suddenly Canada's Peter Roe to the amazement of everyone in the stadium was ordered off.

From that point on the game was as good as won for Mexico. Before half time Javier Guzman scored twice for Mexico from outside the penalty area and in the second half Sanchez made it 3-1 heading in a corner from Isiordia. In the meantime the Canadians defending for most of the time played admirably under the circumstances even though afraid to go into a tackle.

Referee Moses, refereeing his first game of the tournament, was clearly out of his depth in a match of this nature in which the atmosphere was electric well before the kick off. He was never up with the play and it was not until the game was well in Mexico's pocket that the Canadians had anything given their way.

After the game Roe still puzzled by his sending off admitted that he pushed Mexican goalkeeper Francisco Castrejon in the goalmouth but only after the Mexican goalkeeper had punched him and he had been kicked in the back of the leg by a Mexican defender. Roe wondered how linesman Valverde had seen one incident and not the other and why play had gone on for more than a minute before the linesman had flagged?

In addition to losing Roe during the game Canada played without their outstanding defender Bruce Wilson who had had two cautions previously and also Bobby Lenarduzzi who had also missed the game with El Salvador. Lenarduzzi had received two cautions the previous year in the first round games and the one single caution he picked up by courtesy of Senor Valverde against Haiti was enough for the Disciplinary Committee to bar him from the Mexican game on the morning of the game itself. Lenarduzzi was severely missed.

The day after the Canada-Mexico game Haiti beat Surinam 1-0 to wrap up second place while the tie between Guatemala and El Salvador was enough to give El Salvador third place along with Canada. Surinam did not win a game.

Both Canadian team manager John McMahon and coach Eckhard Krautzun, while upset by the refereeing situation, admitted that Mexico were the best team in the tournament. However on their showing particularly against Canada's ten men when they could only score one goal despite almost constant pressure would seem to indicate that they will not find it easy going in Argentina.

Their goalkeeping is questionable and their defence looks shaky under pressure while the attack over elaborates. Also the Mexicans are only half the team outside of Mexico that they are in it.

Protest from Canada

A change in the official schedule of games for the World Cup second qualifying round in the CONCACAF Tournament produced an official protest from Canada.

Originally Canada were scheduled to play Haiti on October 19 with Mexico facing Guatemala on the same day. But the Mexicans moved the Canada-Haiti game to October 20 claiming that as the Mexico-Guatemala game was being televised live in Mexico the attendance at the Canada-Haiti game would be seriously affected.

The change in schedule resulted in Canada having less than the allowed 48 hours rest between games and the Canadians next game after meeting Haiti was Mexico who would have had the required 48 hours rest. Canada told the Mexicans if they wanted to move a game for reasons of television they should move their own game to October 20 when no other games were scheduled.

However, the host nation had the final word and the best the Canadians could negotiate was an alteration in kick off times giving them more rest between games. As it happened that Canada-Mexico game ended up being just academic but if it had decided the tournament as many people thought it might then this decision might have produced considerable controversy.

WORLD SOCCER SPECIAL

HOLLAND, beaten finalists in the 1974 World Cup competition, have qualified for Argentina. But does the success of their international side come as the result of a strong domestic game? Eric Batty recently visited Holland to watch two Dutch league games. He reports on these pages. And on pages 30 and 31 World Soccer spotlights AZ'67 Alkmaar, one of the clubs which have come to the fore in recent years.

Domestic game in poor state

ERIC BATTY reports on a weekend in Holland...

ALTHOUGH Holland's international side is currently rated amongst the World's best, and since giving England a 2-0 lesson at Wembley they have gone on to qualify for the World Cup in Argentina, we have known for some time that all was not well in the Dutch domestic game.

From previous visits I had known that there was a huge gap between the national team and the standard of play in their First Division. Attendance figures underlined this, and during the last off season, several top Dutch clubs let it be known they were interested in English players of less than top quality.

Clyde Best, once of West Ham where he had one great season, lashing goals all over the place later declined very badly and was allowed a transfer to a club in the USA. Best apparently was seen by representatives of the one-time much feared Feyenoord, European Cup winners not too long ago, and joined them when the campaign ended in the USA. From what I have read in Dutch papers it seems he has been playing well, although even as I write he has scored only two goals.

Ray Clarke, once of Mansfield Town is currently one of the top scorers with eight goals from 13 games, and from what I saw in two games, it is now my opinion that there must be a lot of Second Division players in England who would be very welcome in Holland.

Looked at another way, and with my usual bluntness, club football in Holland on the basis of what I saw is so much rubbish, even worse than English football as played in the First Division.

I was able to see two games because although Sunday is the usual day for the Dutch First Division, PSV Eindhoven have taken to playing on Saturday evenings, presumably so that they do not clash with neighbours FC Eindhoven who recently had a brief spell in the top class.

PSV were clear leaders at the time, five points ahead of the field so seeing them was the natural thing to do. For Sunday there was a choice, but I opted for Ajax who were playing at Nijmegen against NEC. So I saw three of the top five clubs in two games, and if AZ'67 showed a few touches here and there, it would be difficult to imagine any other more boring 180 minutes.

With PSV unbeaten and having won all six of their previous home games, the visitors, AZ '67 were, understandably perhaps, cautious. PSV had rattled up 33 goals and conceded only three in 12 games . . . though one found it difficult to believe on the evidence that I saw.

Perhaps the most unbelievable feature about both games was the fact that the Dutch are now playing fight-ball, British style, with the ball up in the air more than it is on the ground.

Gone are the days when Ajax stroked the ball around with superior skill and assassinated the best in Europe. And if the way they played against NEC is typical, it will be at least 20 years before they ever think about winning the European Cup again.

But PSV v. AZ first.

To start with, PSV coach Kees Rijvers plays a funny game with numbers, presumably trying to baffle the opposition. According to the match programme his 4-3-3 team lined up like this: 10, 14, 9, 4 across the back; 5, 11 and 2 in midfield, and 8, 12, 7 up front.

In fact they did play to a 4-3-3 formation but like this: 10, 14, 4 and 5 across the back; 8, 11 and 9, in midfield, and 7, 2 and 12 up front.

It is the custom in Holland now that as in World Cups etc., each player has his own number and sticks to it for the whole season. There's nothing wrong with that, for numbers mean nothing nowadays apart from being a means by which spectators can identify the players.

But even so, to play games with the numbers according to the programmes seems to me to be a little short of childishness.

Willy Van der Kerkhoff dropped back from his programme position on the right wing to show some nice touches to skill working up and down in midfield while his brother Rene also looked to be quite good, first operating on the right wing in the first half and switching to the left flank in the second half.

Another useful player was Willy Van der Kuylen, who obviously has a lazy role to play, just making himself easy to find in midfield, and then once in possession, invariably hitting long balls for the strikers to chase.

Jan Van Beveren was very capable in goal, but the feature of the PSV team was the size of their players with every man tall enough to qualify for the Irish guards.

Then of course almost every attack they made came from a long high ball hit from midfield by Van der Kuylen, who also showed now and again that he packs a real wallop (he was the club's top scorer with nine goals at the time) or alternatively, with the ball fed to Rene Van der Kerkhoff, he attempted to make progress on the flanks to finish with a high cross.

Not surprisingly, almost every PSV goal attempt was from a header.

There were 28,000 at the game — capacity for PSV — and the best gate of the week-end in Holland, but I am surprised that PSV should have so many loyal fans. It just goes to prove that like the English, the public will pay to watch a winning team, even though they don't see any football.

In this game there were a few touches of nice play, but they came almost exclusively from AZ. Centre forward Kees Kist is clearly a young man who can play and several times in breakaways he came close to snatching a winner. He has nice control, positions well and gives off accurate passes and I can well see how he was top scorer at the time with 12 goals. When AZ play an attacking game at home, they *might* be worth watching.

Apart from Kist, Wim Van Hanegem showed he has lost none of his class, but he has lost all of his pace. Playing at the trot and never once breaking sweat, Van Hanegem began as the *libero* playing at the back of the AZ defence and later came out to play in midfield.

Jantje Peters a summer signing from NEC also played in midfield for AZ '67 and we know from Wembley that he is a good player. But against PSV little was seen from him, presumably because he was under orders not to be too venturesome and play defensively.

Van der Kuylen kept trying to get the PSV attack going with his long passes but the front players had no skill at all on the ground and their moves invariably broke down because of this deficiency.

AZ put together two good counter-attacks in the first half, the first when right winger Metgod won a good ball and run it close to the by-line before squaring it for Kist who shot wide with the goal at his mercy. Then just before the break, Hovenkamp (from Wembley) Nygaard and Rijnsoever combined well to move up the left and square the ball low again for Kist but this time although his shot was on target, Van Beveren saved well.

The second half brought two more moments. Metgod again for AZ broke away clear on the right wing with PSV appealing for

off-side. The referee, by the way, was terrible. Metgod went round Van Beveren who came out and then squared the ball into the goalmouth where three PSV defenders had assembled. Someone stuck up a boot and would have registered an own goal had Van Beveren not recovered to leap and turn the ball over the bar.

PSV came closest to scoring when following a long kick up the left, Rene Van der Kerkhoff gave the ball a nice first-time flick, and then shot on the turn. He had goalkeeper Meskovic well beaten, but the ball rebounded off the angle of post and bar like a bomb.

Nick Deacy came on in the second half but was no improvement and what with all the long balls and the crowd spasmodically singing "when the Saints go marching in" in English, I felt I might as well have been at Highbury or Stamford Bridge.

Sunday was no better, indeed, remembering the glories of Ajax it was even worse. This time the Nijmegen crowd were singing "You'll never walk alone" again in English.

Ajax were unbelievably poor with only Ruud Geels looking like a player. International goalkeeper Piet Schrijvers had a poor game (I never liked him) but threw every ball he got out to the feet of Ruud Krol who now plays the sweeper game behind the defence. With no one to play with it was hard to judge him.

Tscheu La Ling made one promising run, carrying the ball around 100 yards but finally he lost it and Geels was twice in action. First a shot from the blue crashed against a post and with the goalkeeper grounded and almost out of sight Geels shot wide. Then after a twice taken free kick, Krol produced a lovely chip from the dead ball that Geels tried to score from with an overhead scissor kick, but he failed to get hold of the ball properly and that went out for a throw in.

Ajax were playing defensively, pulling back ten men under pressure and Geels got so little of the ball that he frequently dropped back really deep trying to get it.

NEC were unbelievably poor as their home goals tally of six for and six against in six games suggests, but they are in the top half of the table and that left me wondering just how bad the bottom clubs like Telstar and Go Ahead Eagles could be. NEC would probably get a good seeing to from Arsenal's reserves and Liverpool's reserves would probably play them off the park.

The match was littered with fouls but as in England, FIFA referee Charles Corver was content to give a string of free kicks and even though his decisions were invariably correct, I thought that as in England he should have used his cards quite liberally. In fact he flashed the yellow just once, and not surprisingly that had no effect.

Throughout the entire game there was not one flash of real inspiration from either team and there was very little skill or combined play either. Altogether it was one long bore from start to finish. Overall Ajax were the better side — they could hardly be as bad as NEC and be equal second with FC Twente but though they deserved to win, it was a poor goal that clinched it.

Geels made a run on the right and crossed to the far post where the NEC 'keeper Formanoy (admitteldy a reserve) was right underneath it and should have caught the ball. Instead he chose to punch and on the edge of the penalty area, Ajax's Danish import, inside right Frank Arnesen lashed it right footed and the ball flew through the crowded area to find the net.

The best thing about the trip was the coffee which in Holland and Germany they make to my taste. But it's a long way to go — and expensive too — for a good cup of coffee. Be warned, don't go to Holland just to see the football. It isn't worth it!

Jean Marie Pfaff (Belgium) saves from colleague Jean Thissen and Rene van der Kerkhof of Holland during their World Cup qualifying round match in Amsterdam. Holland won 1-0 to go through to Argentina.

CLUB FOCUS
by Jonathan Shallard

Molenaars —AZ '67 w

MY FIRST memory of the town of Alkmaar goes back about 20 years. The memory is not of football, but of cheese.

For Alkmaar's greatest claim to fame was their cheese market. Soon, if a wealthy pair of football-loving brothers have their way, it will be the local first division football club — AZ'67 Alkmaar — who will make the place renowned throughout Europe.

They certainly couldn't have made much of a bigger splash in Europe, opening their first campaign in this season's UEFA Cup with an 11-1 hammering of Luxembourg's Red Boys Differdange. And that was just the first leg!

Four goals went to the great young Dutch hope, Jan Peters, three to the Dane, Kristian Nygaard, and two to the blond spearhead, Kees Kist, who ranks among the two or three most dangerous forwards in the league. Kist also hit a hat-trick in the return, which Alkmaar won 5-0 away without any problems, and they were through to a tie with Barcelona — a dream draw.

A dream, that is, from the financial point of view, with Barcelona the visitors for the first leg and bringing with them two of Holland's greatest players, Johan Cruyff and Johan Neeskens. But, of course, it wasn't so good from the playing point of view, for such experienced rivals put Alkmaar immediately in the category of rank outsiders.

Still, Alkmaar weren't disappointed by the crowd figures. Their small stadium holds only 24,000 — but it was packed to the seams for the first leg with Barcelona, which ended in a 1-1 draw. There are plans to increase capacity to 30,000 — but I fear that's coming a little late for this season.

The future is what matters, however. So, before we consider what could lie ahead for the latest explosion in Dutch football, let's consider what lies behind: past results, and the creation of a club which have made themselves talked about far beyond the local cheese market.

AZ were created, as you might have guessed, in 1967, from the merger of two struggling second division clubs, Alkmaar and Zaanstreek. The decision was inevitable. It wasn't just that the clubs were unsuccessful. No Cup wins, no league titles, and only Alkmaar had ever, fleetingly, claimed acquaintance with the first division. More important, more pressing, for both clubs was the fact that neither had any money — but plenty of debts.

The only hope of survival — both sporting and financial — lay in a merger. Not that this guaranteed success. But it did provide a far better chance.

For five years the new club made slight progress in the second division. But all the while it was slipping deep into debt with the local authorities and it's unlikely that much more would ever have been heard of them had they not, in 1972-73, suddenly achieved a little playing success.

Nothing miraculous. But it was promotion into the promised land of the first division, a chance to rub shoulders with the greats and, hopefully, take some advantage by chipping away at the debts and thus ensuring survival for a few years more.

It was a close shave. In 1973, after their first year in the top grade, Alkmaar finished 15th of 18 clubs. Of their 34 league games, half had ended in defeat, and they had scored less than a goal a game (32, in fact).

That was when the Molenaar brothers stepped in.

Klaas and Cees Molenaar had worked their way up from a poor background, into the highly respected world of big business. They had become wealthy men, owning a major industrial group. But, on the way, they had kept their interest in soccer and, now that they were in a well-heeled position of power, they looked around for some way to fuse together their business and sporting acumen.

Cees, the younger brother, had played several times in the past for Holland's amateur international team, and the two men made an excellent partnership. Klaas is the man with the business head; Cees the man closer to the football pulse of the club.

The Molenaars thus moved into the club, bringing with them a business investment through sponsorship worth about £1 million a year! — They also brought with them a massive injection of optimism.

"In five years' time," they said, "we shall be champions of Holland."

Not "we *hope* to be," or "we would *like* to be." The five years is nearly up, but whether at the end of the current season Alkmaar are crowned Dutch champions for the first time or not, there is no denying the giant strides they have made since the Molenaar era began. Alkmaar were 15th in 1973; seventh in 1974; fifth in 1975 and 1976; and then third last season — a steady improvement which, this season, put them in Europe for the first time.

Progress

They are not entirely a team of unknowns, of course. Wim van Hanegem, Jan Peters and Kees Kist are all names known well beyond the Dutch border — van Hanegem of course as a former Feyenoord star, and one of the key men in Holland's progress to the 1974 World Cup final.

The hammering of Red Boys emphasised the killer instinct latent in the team, though a lot of team building is still needed to bring to fruition another of the Molenaar promises — "We shall be champions in Europe in just a couple of years."

Going forward they are an exciting team to watch, and that was emphasised last season by the way Kist finished with 27 goals — runner-up in Holland to Ajax's 34-goal Ruud Geels, and not badly placed in the final order for the Golden Boot. Five of Kist's goals came in January, in a 6-0 win over VVV Venlo.

Kist was the subject of an approach during the summer from Belgium's RWD Molenbeek. Alkmaar said No at once, and tha was the end of the matter. But in fact the club came close to losing a man who is probably more important to the set-up than ever sharpshooter Kist.

That man is manager Hans Kraay, the tough one-time stopper with Feyenoord and Holland in the early 1960s. Kraay was boss a Ajax for a brief spell a couple of years ago joining Alkmaar at the start of season 1976-77.

An intelligent thinker about the game, and an honest man in his approach to players directors and journalists, Kraay had a shock towards the end of last season when a medica check-up showed a problem with arthritis in his back. Kraay was told in no uncertain terms by a specialist that he must quit as a football coach and take life fairly gently so as not to aggravate the condition.

Accordingly he told Alkmaar sadly that at the end of the club's most successful season he would have to quit and find a comfy job somewhere else. There would be no more working with players for him.

The board were stunned, but lost no time casting around in search of a replacement. One of the first men they went to was Cees Rijvers, boss of PSV Eindhoven. He turned Alkmaar down. But he did give them a sound piece of advice when he understood why, after such a promising season, they were looking for someone new.

"Keep Kraay on. Make him manager — then introduce someone else as team trainer to work with the players. That way you get the best of both worlds — you get a coach who can be close to the players, and you keep the manager you're so pleased with."

Alkmaar ultimately took this advice — though they didn't confirm Kraay's promotion and the introduction of Jan Notermanns, formerly of Arminia Hannover and Arminia Bielefeld, without making sure none of the top coaches were available. Vujadin Boskov (Feyenoord), Ernst Happel (Brugge) and Rinus Michels (Barcelona) were among the men on the Alkmaar wanted list. All said No.

So far the Kraay-Notermanns partnership has had its ups and downs. Once the new season got under way Kraay let Notermanns take more and more responsibility for team selection and tactics, but after their third defeat — 2-1 against Sparta Rotterdam — Kraay made it clear that he felt it was time he applied the iron hand again, even if this meant he might occasionally have to join the training sessions. A big risk for him — but typical of his whole-hearted approach and devotion to duty.

In addition to this managerial game of musical chairs, Alkmaar made one other major change during the summer — signing Jan Peters, the so-called "second Cruyff", from NEC Nijmegen. It was a £200,000 record transfer which paid off handsomely and

s make a promise ill be champions

immediately — in the pre-season Amsterdam tournament.

Alkmaar were very much the juniors taking part, alongside Ajax, Barcelona and new European champions, Liverpool.

Yet while Ajax beat Liverpool in one semi-final, Alkmaar unexpectedly thrashed a Cruyff-less Barcelona 4-0. Nygaard (23) and Spelbos (73) put Alkmaar clear by half-time, and Kist (49) and Hovenkamp (78) rubbed in that superiority during the second half.

Barcelona, with their Dutch manager Michels and Dutch midfielder Neeskens, would go home to Spain with their tails very much between their legs — particularly after Liverpool beat them 1-0 in the match for third place.

But it was the final which concerned Alkmaar — before 60,000 against Ajax in Amsterdam's Olympic stadium. For an hour the game swung from end to end. Then, when it seemed the Alkmaar juniors must succumb to the experience of Ajax, Johnny Metgod put the outsiders ahead. In the last ten minutes, as Ajax threw everyone forward, so Peters slipped in for two more goals — final score, 3-0!

The outcome was to turn Alkmaar into favourites, ahead of Ajax, Feyenoord and PSV, to win the league title this season. Not that their faltering start in the championship race has supported the tipsters, but there is still plenty of time for them to settle down — even if injuries have not been kind, above all among the forwards.

One of the most consistent players, however, remains Yugoslav goalkeeper Rizav Meskovic, formerly with Hajduk Split, and who moved to Holland just over a year ago. Meskovic, born on August 10, 1947, is now 30 and if he could finally settle in Holland would establish himself as one of the best goalkeepers in the league. Unfortunately, however, his family have yet to settle in. Still, Meskovic hopes that all his problems will be resolved in a month or two, and then he can concentrate on his football.

At right back is 25-year-old Henk van Rijnsoever, who earned one cap for Holland a couple of years back. At stopper is the oldest member of the back four, 30-year-old Theo Vonk, with 23-year-old Ron Spelbos as sweeper. Spelbos is a useful league player, but it's doubtful whether he has the classic soccer intelligence to fill an awkward role successfully, and this is where Alkmaar look decidedly weak.

One possible solution would be to convert to sweeper the man whose switch to left back brought him into the national team — Hugo Hovenkamp. At 27, Hovenkamp's international 'arrival' has been late, and since appearing against England at Wembley on his debut, he has made five more appearances. He looks set fair to play in Argentina — a remarkable turnaround for a man who thought top soccer had turned its back on him when, 18 months ago, Alkmaar brought in van Hanegem to replace Hovenkamp in midfield.

Hovenkamp is fast and skilful. But if he has one fault it is that he sees the role of left back in too much of an attacking light, and can be caught out by rapid counter-attacks. That, however, is always the likely problem for a recent convert from a forward position.

Midfield remains the strongest department of the team — starting with Peter Arntz, a sound, hard-working defensive-type player, who is a handy and adept foil for van Hanegem and Peters.

Van Hanegem remains the star of the team. Born in Utrecht on February 20, 1944, he joined Feyenoord from Xerxes in 1968, and was soon proclaimed one of Europe's outstanding schemers. He's never been particularly quick in a sprint — in fact, as his career has continued, running has appeared more and more of an effort to be avoided. But van Hanegem more than makes up for his lack of speed with an ultra-quick precision of thought and masterly technique which has made him the envy of virtually every player he has played against.

With Feyenoord, van Hanegem won Champions' Cup and World Club Cup medals in 1970; and in 1973, when Feyenoord won the UEFA Cup, he scored a memorable goal against Tottenham in the final — bending a free kick round the defensive wall and way beyond Pat Jennings.

The 1974 World Cup Finals saw van Hanegem at his best. Relying exclusively on his magical left foot he fitted in exquisitely with the Ajax stars and Cruyff, and his incisive passing and brilliant reading of a game were major factors in Holland finishing runners-up.

Alas, van Hanegem's Achilles heel has always been his temperament. In the World Cup Final against West Germany he allowed himself to be distracted for 10 minutes before half-time into talking a little too much to referee Jack Taylor, and not enough to his colleagues. In that time Holland let their grip on the final snap and Gerd Müller slipped away for the goal which proved the winner.

Van Hanegem was in more trouble with referees the next season and, in the summer of 1976 Feyenoord, thinking him over the hill, offered him a comparatively derisory short-term contract. His pride offended, van Hanegem refused to sign — and was snapped up by Alkmaar.

AZ had, in fact, been hoping to sign Poland's captain Kazimierz Deyna, from Legia Warsaw. But van Hanegem came on the transfer market at just about the time the Polish authorities made it clear that Deyna would be staying at home. At 33, players in Holland must be released on a free transfer if they switch clubs and, since van Hanegem was now 32, Alkmaar picked him up cheap for £50,000.

What a bargain he's proved!

Instead of the moody van Hanegem who was such an unpredictable force in his later years at Feyenoord, has emerged a new man. He is now captain of Alkmaar, a major steadying influence among the younger players both on and off the pitch.

Of course he can't go on forever — and Alkmaar sees Jan Peters as his ultimate successor.

Born in Nijmegen on August 18, 1954, Peters has long been admired not only inside Holland, but outside. A couple of years ago Don Revie returned to England raving about Peters after seeing him in an under-21 match. Four years ago Feyenoord agreed a part exchange deal with Nijmegen, but the deal fell through when the players Feyenoord proposed to release refused to accept terms with NEC.

A year later it was the turn of Ajax — then managed by Kraay! A £100,000 fee was agreed but, at the last minute, Peters was turned down by the Ajax club doctor, who was unhappy about weaknesses he claimed to have found in Peters's knees.

Foreign clubs were watching him too. And last spring, after impressing Borussia Dortmund in an indoor winter tournament, Peters found West German clubs in particular represented at all his games. Dortmund were one, Fortuna Düsseldorf another.

Ironically he put his thoughts into words soon after NEC had been beaten 4-1 . . . by Alkmaar.

Peters made a brilliant start in the Amsterdam tournament, but his form has been sporadic since. He even lost his place in the Holland team.

But he remains among the most highly thought-of international reserves, along with club mate Kist, the 27-year-old centre forward who has won seven caps.

Injuries have indeed proved expensive for Alkmaar. They signed one-time Dynamo Zagreb defender, Mladen Ramljak, from Feyenoord during the season. But the veteran 35-year-old has hardly played a game for them because of knee trouble.

This, then, is the present problem for Alkmaar: can they find enough money to fill the gaps as they need to, if the predictions and promises are to be fulfilled? Already there are suggestions that the team may be overhauled in mid-season, with van Hanegem or Hovenkamp switched to sweeper. But that doesn't add anything to the attack, so dangerous last season and this term apparently little more at the moment than a one-man band.

Still, it may be that I am being too critical. After all, AZ'67 Alkmaar have come a long way in 10 years and, with the money and determination available, there's no reason for anyone at the club to be despondent — even if it takes a year or two longer to land the championship, for the first time.

Regis hit with WBA

by Brian Marshall

ONE of the most welcome and very much unexpected success stories of the season has occurred at unfashionable West Bromwich Albion and a great deal of the interest has centred around the form of their two brilliant young forwards, Laurie Cunningham and Cyrille Regis.

Cunningham, of course, made his first impression last season when, under the careful handling of Eire manager, Johnny Giles, he quickly won his spurs in the England under 21 side.

Regis is younger than Cunningham and was a bargain buy from the non-league club, Hayes. Between them they have re-awakened a tremendous amount of interest in the Albion team and together they have sparked off a big improvement in the Midland club's fortunes.

Such is the spirit of the team at the present time that they are on a crest of a wave and are picking up points from unexpected quarters. Regis, for instance, was forced to miss the home match with Manchester United but Albion still won 4-0 to repeat last season's success.

Manager Ronnie Allen, who is basking in the glory achieved by his team is quick to point out that while these two coloured players have made a big contribution to Albion's success the other players in the team have also helped tremendously in the progress of the two forwards.

The former England player said: "There is little doubt that both Cunningham and Regis have very bright futures. I am myself trying to keep everything in its right perspective because I do not want to see either player ruined by any adverse elements."

Cunningham, who cost Albion £110,000 from Orient in contrast to the £5,000 paid to Hayes for Regis, his already had one problem which raised its head on England's summer visit to Finland and Norway.

The lithe built forward ran into colour prejudice in Finland but he quickly earned the moral support of the England team and also other officials. Sir Matt Busby, who was in charge of the England party, said: "Cunningham is the type of player who will be judged on his ability.

"The boy has amazing natural talent and we must persevere with him. He is obviously a supreme athlete the way he turns defenders by his running ability. He has all the talents of skill, control and grace and what is also important courage to stick at his game."

Obvious skill

Sir Matt believes that it is this courage which will enable him to rise into a big star and be of immense value to England in the years to come.

The surprising feature of Cunningham's history is that no big London club were prepared to take any risk with him in their side despite his obvious skill in the Orient team. This is very hard to understand particularly in view of their shortcomings at the present time when soccer is being completely dominated by the Midlands and the North.

While other clubs were sitting on the fence Johnny Giles moved in and completed the deal. The Eire team manager said: "I do not sit on the fence like other clubs. I played against Cunningham twice while we were in the Second Division and watched him on another two occasions. What I saw on these occasions was good enough for me to go in and back my own judgement with cash."

Cunningham, who likes to dress in more flamboyant clothes than his colleagues, did suffer a lapse in his form after the Finland incident. But now he is back to something like his best displays and if he continues to make an impact he could be in the full England side by the end of the season.

This could be something of an embarrassment to Arsenal because for four years he trained at Highbury two nights a week before joining Orient. Obviously he has the skill to make a big name for himself and in the present international situation the time is ripe for him to step in and grab his chance.

Cyrille Regis is everything that Cunningham isn't. He is for instance a maverick who never got caught up in the "system" and as a result his general approach to the game of soccer is inventive and refreshingly spontaneous.

The big coloured striker has captivated the Albion fans with his early performances which produced five goals in as many games. His prowess quickly reached the ears of England manager Ron Greenwood who went to the Hawthorns to see the youngster in action for himself.

This interest is hardly surprising because his kind of dynamic play has not been seen around the Hawthorns for many years and along with Cunningham the Midland club have another "black pearl."

Already Ronnie Allen has put up a protective barrier around his new "find," who only a few months ago was working on a London building site and playing with Hayes, who are delighted with his form because they stand to collect another £2,500 after Regis has played 20 games and a further £2,500 for the following 20 matches.

Regis, like Cunningham, maintains a stony silence about the lack of interest shown in him by London clubs despite the fact that he scored 24 goals for Hayes last term. It was this kind of form which attracted the interest of Ronnie Allen who advised Johnny Giles to complete the signing.

A reticent Regis, who comes from the London Borough of Brent, said: "I'm very happy with Albion and delighted I came to the Hawthorns. Everyone from the directors to the ground staff lads have treated me exceptionally well.

"I never expected to be given a chance so soon after coming to the Midlands, but it is a fine opportunity which I hope will develop into better things in the future."

Already Regis, born in French Guyana 19 years ago, is a rare prospect. He is a striker who is scoring goals — a priceless asset in the present defence dominated English soccer.

Individual goal

His wonderful individual goal against Middlesbrough when he raced from the half-way line with the ball beating four players in the process before scoring with a low drive has been shown repeatedly on the Midland club's video-tape machine at the request of the other Albion players who are amazed at the sheer brilliance of such a novice player.

Ronnie Allen, who was on trial just as much as Regis in the early games after the success of Giles, said: "Already Regis is a fine player. What will he be like in another two seasons when he has had the benefit of playing and training with our leading players? The mind boggles at the possibilities!"

But it was Allen who quickly squashed any suggestion of a first team outing for Regis when I broached the subject just before the start of the season. Allen reckoned that Regis required at least a season in the reserves to acclimatise to a Football League club.

Six weeks later Regis was taking the soccer world by storm with Allen quite happy to let the youngster have his fling.

Now Albion are set for league honours and a place in European soccer next season.

The spotlight has been away from the Hawthorns for too long. Cunningham and Regis, two youngsters seemingly destined to make their mark on the England side, are dramatically changing the outlook at West Bromwich and putting the Midland club back on the soccer map.

Huge loss expected

by Eric Weil

GENERAL Antonio Merlo, head of EAM 78, the government-run Argentine World Cup Committee, admitted it recently — Argentina expects to lose 392 million dollars on the World Cup. This is because the total cost is expected to reach 410 million dollars and the expected revenue from the share of gate receipts, TV rights, publicity and other side benefits will only amount to 18 million dollars.

This doen include money the tourists are going to spend in the country during the World Cup, while the main expenditure is the building of new stadiums in Mar del Plate, Mendoza and Cordoba and the renovating of two in Buenos Aires and one in Rosario — although doubts have been expressed here about their possible usefulness after the World Cup except for the enlarging of River Plate's as Buenos Aires has always needed a larger stadium. The three new stadiums are thought to be too large to be of any practical value where they are situated and the renovating of existing ones in these towns might have been sufficient, while rebuilding at Rosario and of the almost new Velez Sarsfield stadium as a reserve venue in Buenos Aires is also deemed unnecessary expenditure by many people here.

The amount of the expected loss, which is being footed by the government came as no real surprise, although the amount has not been mentioned before and was perhaps not expected to be quite so big. The man in the street who is not a soccer fan — there are some in Argentina — grumbles that the country cannot afford it at this time, but with rampaging inflation of around 150 per cent per annum and the money printing presses working overtime, it will, in the long run, not affect the man in the street.

General Merlo defends the cost as being worthwhile as it will project the image of the country all over the world through the eyes of some 35,000 expected tourists and a 1.5 billion TV audience.

That, of course, is debatable. The majority of the tourists and millions of TV viewers will not be interested in much more than soccer and are not likely to see much more of the country than the inside of the soccer stadiums.

Inspection of these stadiums in October showed that 70 per cent of the work had been completed and is on schedule — except for a slight delay in Mar del Plata where the main stadium building is also expected to be finished by the end of the year, but work on minor details will take until the end of February.

PRESS STAFF WORK HARD

Mar del Plata's new World Cup stadium. Capacity 40,000, half seated.

THE press department of the Argentine World Cup committee (EAM 78) is running very well so far with a relatively small staff. The secret is that it is entirely staffed by journalists under the presidency of Pedro Valdés, a radio sports commentator who is also president of the Argentine Sportswriters Club.

He has a staff of only nine in Buenos Aires and tells me that there are only two or three journalists working in the department at each of the other venues in Mar del Plata, Rosario, Mendoza and Cordoba and that EAM's total administrative staff is only in the region of 300 at the moment. This, and the press department will be conveniently reinforced as World Cup time approaches — yet the figure is very low compared to usual bureaucratic standards in Argentina.

Journalists from abroad, who frequently arrive on short visits to look over World Cup preparations, are given every assistance to get all the information they need — which includes supplying photos of World Cup installations and free passes to soccer matches. Special permission is required from EAM's central office to visit the six World Cup stadiums in preparation — part of the stringent security measures, but the press department gets them with the minimum of delay for accredited journalists.

The first stage of accrediting journalists for the World Cup — handled by the press department — which consisted of finding out how many people intend to cover the event, has resulted in a registration of 6,904 press, radio and TV men from 77 countries. Naturally the major portion (2,869) is from Argentina, followed by Brazil who will have the largest contingent from abroad (538). But the major surprise is the registration of 234 journalists from the United States — a country which has already been eliminated from the World Cup and where soccer popularity is only a recent development.

The breakdown per continent is: South America 4,072 from 10 countries, North and Central America 471 from 14 countries, Europe 1,793 from 30 countries, Africa 39 from 14 countries, Asia and Oceana 135 from nine countries. It is expected that 1,650 medias will be represented (216 of them Argentine) including 105 TV and radio stations from all over the world.

The press department is doing its utmost to satisfy all requests, although some may cause problems. A German publication wants to rent 100 square metres of office space in or near the River Plate stadium in Buenos Aires (where the main matches and the final will be played) to be able to set up its machinery and information centre, while a French soccer magazine has requested nine single and nine double rooms at a hotel to accommodate its staff for a month during the 26-day World Cup.

The media will however get preference in the share-out of the country's limited hotel space which is one of the reasons why Argentina will only be able to receive under 40,000 tourists during the World Cup.

It has often been said here by officials that next year's event will be a journalists World Cup. Since then doubts have been expressed in several quarters whether the communications system will be sufficient for all these journalists. That is a matter which is not directly in the hands of the press department which will however do everything in its power to make the 1978 event a journalists World Cup . . . because journalists know best what journalists want.

International Microscope

Good and bad from Italy

by ERIC BATTY

MORE than in any other country in Europe, there seems to be no happy medium in Italian football. The game there goes through bad periods and good periods, in my time producing some of the best football I have ever seen, and later playing some of the worst rubbish of all time.

In recent years this has been underlined by Italy's fate in the World Cup competitions.

The 1966 series turned into a disaster for coach Edmondo Fabbri after reaching the last sixteen, they were beaten 1-0 by North Korea and returned home to be humiliated by being met at the airport and having rubbish thrown at them.

Four years later in Mexico, the Italians reached the final, though they were at their best in the semi final against West Germany which they won 4-3 after extra time — probably the most exciting game I have ever seen. Not the best, I hasten to underline — but the most exciting.

In 1974 the Italians flopped once more, failing to reach the quarter finals with a team led by Ferrucio Valcareggi in which only Sandro Mazzola played up to his reputation.

On this basis, flopping and being successful in alternate World Cups, they are due to do well in Argentina.

Due to do well according to their fluctuating fortunes, I do not believe that the 1978 series will see a brilliant Italian team, but at the same time I am coming to the view that there is not going to be much quality football played in Argentina.

Limited talent

As the list of qualifiers grows, I believe that many games will be far below the standard one is reasonably entitled to expect from a World Cup and therefore while the Italians are no super team, I see them ending up somewhere around the quarter final, semi final mark, depending on who they get drawn against.

Enzo Bearzot has done a good job with the limited talent available to him, for I believe that the domestic game in Italy is at its lowest ebb for years. Apart from the top two or three teams who have collected together the best players, the majority of Italian clubs are not very bright right now, short of talented players and dominated by the tactical shackles of *catenaccio*, I wouldn't want to be seeing Italian football every week.

The record books show quite clearly that Italy has twice won the World Cup though they did it with the help of several South Americans, and they haven't hesitated to use imported players of alleged Italian origin when it suited them and when they were available.

But in the post war period, they failed to qualify in 1958, and didn't do much better in 1962, with their *oriundi*, like Enrico Sivori, Juan Schiaffino and Jose Altafini. Though very, very good players, I believe they had little interest in playing for their adopted country — just as Di Stefano never produced his best form for Spain.

If the heart isn't in it, the only way to persuade the stars to play is by offering them outrageously high bonuses for winning, and in 1958 and 1962 the Italian FA didn't do that.

Most of the clubs, and the press appear to agree with my low assessment of the current state of the game in Italy generally, for the vast majority are in favour of opening the frontiers to foreigners again. After the World Cup it seems there is every chance the FA and Lega Nazionale will agree to it.

Of course allowing foreigners in, does deny, to some extent, the chances of young players developing, but it's for the good of the game as a whole. Some of the best football I have seen came from Italian teams, particularly AC Milan in the first ten years or so after the war.

Permanent niche

The Milan side that included Gunnar Gren, Gunnar Nordahl and Nils Liedholm, the Swedish inside forward trio is still remembered as the Gre-No-Li team and has a permanent niche in the history of Italian football. But they were just as good in a different way when Eduardo Ricagni (Argentina) and Juan Schiaffino (Uruguay) replaced, Gren and Liedholm respectively — Liedholm moving back to wing half.

All the players just mentioned are remembered as super-stars but I must single out Ricagni, who though he may have won recognition in Milan, was not generally acclaimed. In my book he was one of the finest inside forwards I ever saw, a tubby little man with bow legs and a balding pate.

Ricagni had a lot of trouble with injuries that finally forced him out of the game prematurely, and I well remember one quote from him that I read, Asked how it felt to be so troubled by injuries, Ricagni replied: "For me, not to play is like death."

Would that we had 50 or 60 players in England today who felt about the game that way . . . with half Ricagni's talent.

	P	W	D	L	goals F	goals A
Argentina	5	3	1	1	10	2
Austria	31	12	7	12	40	52
Belgium	13	10	1	2	31	15
Brazil	7	4	0	3	12	11
Bulgaria	6	2	3	1	11	5
Chile	2	1	0	1	2	2
Croatia	1	1	0	0	4	0
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	7	0
Czechoslovakia	20	8	6	6	33	29
Denmark	3	2	0	1	7	6
Egypt (UAR)	4	4	0	0	20	6
Eire	3	3	0	0	8	1
England	12	3	4	5	17	21
Finland	8	6	1	1	23	7
France	24	16	5	3	68	32
Greece	3	2	0	1	8	4
Germany (East)	2	1	1	0	5	2
Germany (West)	16	9	4	3	30	23
Haiti	1	1	0	0	3	1
Holland	6	2	3	1	9	9
Hungary	26	11	7	8	46	48
Ireland (North)	4	2	1	1	7	6
Israel	3	2	1	0	10	2
Japan	1	1	0	0	8	0
Luxembourg	4	4	0	0	15	1
Korea (North)	1	0	0	1	0	1
Mexico	5	4	1	0	15	4
Norway	5	5	0	0	13	5
Paraguay	1	1	0	0	2	0
Poland	5	1	3	1	7	3
Portugal	13	8	1	4	30	17
Rumania	6	5	1	0	14	7
Scotland	3	2	0	1	6	1
Spain	18	6	7	5	28	19
Sweden	11	4	5	2	18	14
Switzerland	41	21	14	6	89	56
Turkey	4	3	1	0	8	0
Uruguay	2	0	1	1	2	3
U.S.A.	5	5	0	0	35	1
U.S.S.R.	6	1	2	3	2	5
Wales	3	3	0	0	9	2
Yugoslavia	11	6	2	3	18	15
Totals	347	187	83	77	730	438

Indifferent form from the Swiss

SWITZERLAND'S national side gave its usual Jekyll and Hyde performance during four successive internationals in which they drove their supporters alternately from euphoria to despair. After the much lauded 0-0 draw against England at Wembley, came the cold shower in the shape of a 1-2 home defeat by Spain. Then the team redeemed itself by beating Finland 2-0 and Norway 1-0. This last encounter was the concluding tie in their World Cup qualifying group. The result as such had no significance to the Swiss — only to Sweden, who thus reached the world finals in Argentina.

by Arthur Rotmil

After the encouraging display at Wembley, expectations ran high that perhaps Roger Vonlanthen's side has turned the corner. The match versus Spain was staged at the Wankdorf ground in Bern, where the Swiss had not lost any of the ten internationals played there in the last thirteen years!

On the other hand, Switzerland has never beaten Spain in twelve matches and this 13th encounter was just another disappointment. It is strange to recall, that the Swiss have beaten all countries, against whom they played more often than twice, at least on one occasion — but never the Spaniards!

Out of thirteen meetings the Iberians have won eleven now and drew two. Yet, the Swiss led 1-0 (Elsener) at half time, but afterwards only one team was in command and the wonder was that Spain managed only two goals. An interesting commentary was provided by Walter Lutz, the chief editor of Switzerland's largest sports paper "Sport" (Zurich): "At Wembley we faced a team comprising seven men from the European Cup winners Liverpool — in Bern a side from six different clubs and who had not played an international match for five months.

Yet, the Spaniards with their above average ball control, their speed and determination in the tackle, but above all their instinctive play were evidently superior to the "working class" football of the English."

The next match against Finland did not arouse a lot of interest. The visitors' standing was not exactly calculated to stimulate excitement and the fiasco against Spain also kept the public away. Thus only 7,800 fans saw the 2-0 win over a modest Finnish team in Zurich. Manager Vonlanthen experimented with four new caps, but only midfield player Marc Schnyder 25 (Servette), earned his bonus. He could fill the vacuum left in the middle by the departure of the veterans. The new defender Charly In-Albon 20 (FC Sion), appeared too nervous, his heading was poor and he rarely ventured forward in support.

The forwards, Erni Maissen 19 (Basel) and Peter Traber 26 (Lausanne), began well, looked keen and ran a lot, but generally to little effect. Ruedi Elsener, Switzerland's currently best forward, who scored against Spain, hit another versus Finland, while Küttel got the second.

On the whole the Swiss Press expressed satisfaction at this victory and the one which followed against Norway; it is not often they celebrate two wins in a row here and it all came as a welcome relief after the recent setbacks and the disappointment at not qualifying for the World Cup finals from such an easy group.

At club level the Swiss enjoyed mixed fortunes in the European competitions. Champions FC Basel got a nasty shock when they lost at home to Austria's SSW Innsbruck by 3-1. Even a consolatory 1-0 win in Austria was not enough to reach round two.

In the UEFA-Cup, however, Grasshoppers put out Frem Copenhagen by the devastating aggregate of 8-1, whilst FC Zurich triumphed over the tough Bulgarian Army team CSKA Sofia by 2-1 overall, to progress into the second round.

Zurich's form in the championship has been terribly disappointing and the team is unrecognisable from the one which reached the European Cup semi-finals last season.

It appears that the process of rejuvenation is taking longer than some experts imagined and manager Timo Konietzka obviously still has a lot of work to do. In the local derby Zurich lost to Grasshoppers by the incredible score of 7-2! It was one of the best League games seen in this country for a long time. Grasshoppers, fortunate to be able to field the same side in a long run, are the team of the moment — their match against Servette which ended 2-2 also received unanimous praise for its high quality.

Servette were leading the table at the halfway stage of the first phase in the championship. The Geneva club were then overtaken on goal difference by Grasshoppers. The "Servettiens" as they are called, also gave Athletic Bilbao (last year's finalists) a hard fight in the UEFA-Cup, before bowing out narrowly by 2-1, on aggregate.

Their former England and Tottenham centre forward Martin Chivers has recently been linked with Norwich City whose manager John Bond is apparently looking for an experienced man to strengthen the attack. Chivers, whose contract expires at the end of the season, might be tempted to return to English League football to end his career, though Servette are not keen on letting him go just now, because of their own injury problems.

Chivers' form has been rather erratic lately, though he did score four goals in a cup match against non-league side Stade Nyonnais, which Servette won 12-1.

It has been a bad month for cup holders Young Boys — knocked out of the current competition in the first round proper by Lucerne (2-1). The "Boys" tumbled out in the Cup Winners' tourney by Glasgow Rangers, have been also having a lean spell in the League and this run of bad results led to the dismissal of their German manager Kurt Linder. His place has been taken by the former national coach Rene Hussy.

John Greig scores for Rangers against Young Boys of Berne at Ibrox Park.

NEW IDEAS FROM ROCA

by Arthur Rotmil

MEXICO'S national team qualified as expected for the World Cup finals. The Central Americans enjoyed a relatively easy passage in the preliminary group and then had the added bonus of staging the final tournament at home, where thanks to a clean sweep they secured their passports to Argentina next summer.

After the first series of matches in three groups, the winners and runners' up entered the six-country-pool whose winner as Central America's sole representative had qualified. Against such opposition as Canada, Haiti, Guatemala, Surinam and El Salvador, the experienced Mexicans playing every match in familiar surroundings simply could not fail. They have thus reached the world finals for the eighth time. But anyone who thinks that Mexico has no right to appear among the élite, had better revise their opinion.

In June Mexico gave the world champions West Germany the biggest fright on their South American tour and in fact led by 2-0, before the famous visitors pulled back to 2-2. Earlier in the year the Mexicans beat Yugoslavia sensationally high by 5-1 and drew with Hungary 1-1, as well as with South American cup winners Atletico Mineiro (Brazil). Mexico's best World Cup performance came in 1970, when as host nation they reached the quarter-finals, before losing to Italy 4-1.

The current successes have come with the appointment of a new manager, José Antonio Roca. The former international, who as club boss led FC America to championship honours, is now chief of Atletica Espanol. But during October he devoted his attention entirely to the interests of the national team.

Four years ago the Mexicans failed to reach the World Cup finals having suffered a humiliating setback against Haiti. Now, the Football Federation have advanced £100,000 to prepare the team and to stage the final tournament of the CONCACAF, having outbid Canada (the originally nominated hosts), who could not raise the necessary funds. Mexico triumphed in style having won all five matches with a goal tally of 20-5.

Manager Roca is incidentally not getting a salary, but has been promised a hefty bonus for qualifying for Argentina. Roca has his own ideas, but he is no revolutionary. He prefers to stick to the traditional playing methods of the Mexicans: Zonal marking, deliberate build-up and short passing. He explains: "We Mexicans must play the way which suits our temperament. We can't copy other systems, like for instance the "total football" of Holland, but must fit the methods to our mentality. Otherwise we shall be running around like a Pekinese in a greyhound race."

Foreign observers are not convinced that this Mexican side is playing to its full potential, but Sepp Piontek the former German international and now manager of Haiti, who opposed the Mexicans and who saw all their pool matches, is certain: "They play modern and dynamic football which will surprise many teams in Argentina."

Mexico's soccer is dominated by clubs from the capital, like FC America, Cruz Azul, Universidad and Atletico Espanol, who are all from Mexico City. Only Universidad from Guadalajara are the sole provincials with a strong line-up. The national team is recruited only from the leading clubs. FC America alone have five men in the squad. The strength of the Mexican side lies in defence. Goalkeeper Francisco Castrejon is experienced and dependable, while his deputies Camacho and Reyes are also first class.

The defence is marshalled by Javier Guzman (32), a veteran of the 1970 World Cup team, who has slowed down, but makes up with his fine positioning and perfect understanding with centre back Sanchez Galindo, with whom he has played for many years at Cruz Azul. With two goals against Canada, Guzman confirmed his value as a "libero".

Both full backs, Najera and Vazquez Ayala are tough and quick, the latter often switching into attack effectively. In midfield the Mexicans lack a genuine schemer. Antonio de la Torre is a tireless grafter and José-Luis Real a mobile, defensively orientated midfielder, but both are not quite up to high international class. Perhaps Rafael Chavez can fill the role, but he is clearly too young and inexperienced.

In attack the wing forwards Cuellar and Isiordia are highly skilled, fast and can only be faulted on over-elaboration, a common weakness of the ball-playing Latins. The main problem concerns the centre forward position.

Alfredo Jimenez, the "tank" from Cruz Azul has not been at his best lately, but manager Roca has persevered with him. A pity that the central striking role cannot be entrusted to Horacio Lopez Salgado. Unless the Football Federation grant him a reprieve, for the feared goal scorer was dismissed from the national squad following his car accident caused by drunkenness!

Great hopes rest on a new discovery, the only 20-year-old Rangel, who became a revelation during the final CONCACAF tourney by hitting six goals.

The squad should feel at home in Argentina, being of the same race, same language (Spanish), same mentality, they can certainly count on the support of the crowds over there. Mexico's team had been showing improved form against some of Europe's top sides and if they can keep this up, then Central America's representative will prove in the World Cup tournament an opponent to be feared and respected.

The toss-up before the start of the Mexico versus El Salvador match.

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RAYO VALLECANO SHAKE REAL MADRID

REAL MADRID were given a nasty shock in the first of the season's Madrid derbies — but it wasn't Atletico who upset them.

This season in Spain, for the first time, we have *THREE* Madrid teams in the first division — Real, Atletico and little Rayo Vallecano, in the top flight for the first time in their history.

Real, beaten only once in the opening game of the season, were clear favourites when they turned up to face Rayo in the Vallecas working class suburb. But whether they were over confident, or unprepared for the enthusiastic Cup-tie determination of the newcomers the fact was that Rayo won 3-2!

It was just the result Real didn't want — for, with Barcelona thrashing five goals past Las Palmas in a purple patch in the second half of their game in Nou Camp, it put Spanish football's twin giants back level on points.

Domestic

Barcelona look the tougher team to beat at the moment, and considering Real's domestic problems they've done well to keep pace. Not only that, but for one brief week they were two points clear at the top.

Apart from this odd departure from routine however, the two clubs have been matching steps.

While Madrid beat Burgos 3-0 — Juanito scoring once against his old team-mates — Barcelona were winning 2-0 away from Enrique Mateos's Cadiz, another newcomer this season. The next week it was Madrid's turn to win 2-0 away — this time against the third promoted club, Gijon, who lost a lot of confidence after Ciriaco missed a penalty at 0-0.

Barcelona, meanwhile, were winning 3-0 at home to Santander thanks to another goal from their Argentine-born newcomer, Rafael Zuvina, playing against a former club.

With six games played Madrid and Barcelona each had 10 points — and Barcelona remained unbeaten and had still to concede a goal.

I hat was a record which collapsed the next week, in Alicante, against Hercules — the club wondering whether to buy the controversial Alan Hudson from Arsenal. The Hercules hero was Pedro Verde, the Argentine-born striker who joined Hercules during the summer after three years with Las Palmas.

News from Spain
by Keir Radnedge

Verde, a 28-year-old who played a couple of times for Argentina while playing for former world club champions Estudiantes de la Plata, said later: "That was such an important game for us to win. To beat Barcelona and become the first team to score against them meant so much for our morale."

Verde it was who scored the first goal, after 20 minutes, taking on Baena's pass, eluding Olmo and De la Cruz and shooting cleanly past Artola. Olmo headed an equaliser from a Johan Cruyff free kick, but poor Olmo then ruined his efforts by bringing down Saccardi, and Charles converted the penalty two minutes before half-time. That was how it stayed — 2-1 to Hercules.

"I think we were too confident at the start," said CFB coach Rinus Michels. "It's not possible to relax against a team like Hercules."

Madrid, however, were thrashing Elche 5-1, despite being without the injured Ulie Stielike and Pirri. Quique Wolff slotted in impressively as sweeper and with two goals each from Juanito and Carlos Santillana, Madrid looked more like their old selves to go two points clear at the head of the table.

Santillana had now scored eight goals in six games and it was clear that for him, perhaps more than any other player, the departure of Miljanic and return of Molowny was a blessing in disguise.

At the start of the season Santillana was left on the reserves' bench, as Miljanic decided to switch Henning Jensen to centre forward, following the arrival of Juanito to take over on the right wing.

The change of manager altered all that.

Improvise

Santillana said: "Before the change we played a very rigid sort of game which didn't give much rein to an individual's own ability — something that's very important to a Spanish footballer. He likes to have the freedom to improvise, to try something on his own. Molowny, instead, appreciates this and the players have benefited — so have the fans . . . after all, look at the improvement in results."

Madrid's stay at the top lasted two weeks, but only because the following Sunday was taken up with the World Cup tie against Rumania. The Sunday after, as we have seen, Madrid went down to Rayo — which means "thunderbolt" in Spanish incidentally — and Barcelona piled up the goals against UEFA Cup contenders, Las Palmas.

Barcelona's defensive record — two goals conceded in eight games — is more reminiscent of Italy than Spain. It'll be all the more interesting to watch the Madrid-Barcelona derby — the best defence against the best attack, for Madrid have totted up 21 goals in their eight games.

Champions Atletico Madrid haven't had it so easy. Ruben Cano hit a hat-trick against Cadiz in a 4-0 win, but their 2-0 defeat away to Santander was their fourth of the season and left them down among the strugglers. It was a tough game, with Jose Capon carried off and Eusebio Bejerano sent off for a moment of stupidity which Atletico could well have done without, considering the injury problems they have.

Possibility

It's not beyond the realms of possibility that they may buy back Ruben Diaz, the unpredictable defender who returned home to Argentina last season to rejoin Racing Beunos Aires. In the circumstances it seems strange that coach Lios Arugones should pick this time for a quarrel with veteran midfielder, Ignacio Salcedo, the former club captain. He's been put on the transfer list and told to train with the nursery team!

Meanwhile, above Atletico, and behind Madrid and Barcelona, the joint leaders, five clubs are sharing third place on points — Real Sociedad, Valencia, Salamanca, Elche and Las Palmas. Bottom on five points are Cadiz and Burgos, with Espanol Barcelona on six. Espanol have just signed goalkeeper Urruticoechea from Real Sociedad — the fifth now on the staff! And president Manuel Meler has let it be known he'll welcome any new men interested in becoming directors — as long as they're millionaires.

Mario Kempes, with 10 goals, is the first division's top scorer, followed by Santillana (eight), Real Sociedad's Jesus Satrustegui (seven) and Ruben Cano (six).

PRE-SEASON TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Coruna (Trofeo Teresa Herrera):—Real Madrid 2 (Juanito 2), Dukla 2 (Bilsky, Nehoda) — Dukla 5-4 on pens. — Fluminese 2 (Luis Carlos, Doval), Feyenoord 0. **3rd place:** Real Madrid 4 (Martinez 3, Juanito), Feyenoord 2 (Kruiz, Vreysen). **Final:** Fluminese 4 (Luis Carlos, Doval, Zeca, F. Marinho pen), Dukla 1 (Vizek pen).

La Linea:—Salamanca 2 (Baez pen, Angel), Stoke 0 — Cadiz 1 (Miguel Angel pen), Nacional Montevideo 1 (Ocampos), Nacional 4-3 on pens. **3rd place:** Cadiz 1 (Miguel Angel), Stoke 2 (Goodwin, Gregory). **Final:** Salamanca 4 (Torne, Baez, Juanito pen, Amejenda), Nacional 2 (Mamelli, Carrasco).

Bilbao:—Bilbao 2 (Carlos 2), Aston Villa 0 — Dynamo Kiev 6 (Benzinoi 3, Buriak, Slobadian, Besonov), Anderlecht 1 (Rensenbrink). **3rd place:** Anderlecht 4 (Rensenbrink 2, Resset, van der Elst), Aston Villa 3 (Mortimer, Deehan, Gray). **Final:** Bilbao 1 (Ariar Aguirre), Dynamo Kiev 0.

Palma de Mallorca:—Betis 4 (Megido, Muhren, del Pozo, Ladinszky), JSK Algiers 2 (Aonis, Iboud) — Mallorca 0, West Ham 4 (Devonshire, Radford, Green, Taylor). **3rd place:** Mallorca 2 (Zamora, Aparicio), JSK 2 (Iboud, Aloui). **Final:** Betis 0, West Ham 0 — Betis win 5-5 on pens.

Costa de Valencia.—Levante 1 (Martinez), Nacional Mon. 0 — Nacional 2 (De los Santos, Mamelli), Nancy 1 (Curbelo) — Nancy 1 (Royer), Levante 2 (Lionel, Carrozano). **Nacional win tournament.**

Alicante (Trofeo Costa Blanca):— West Bromwich 1 (Cross), Dynamo Tbilisi 0 — Hercules (Barrios 3), Beveren 1 (Shengul) **3rd place:** Beveren 1 (Aasbech), Tbilisi 4 (Guzaev, Chelebadze, Koridze, Dareselia). **Final:** Hercules 5 (Juan, Latuada 2 pens, Sancayetano, Verde), West Bromich 1 (Cunningham).

Malaga (Costa del Sol) — Malaga 2 (Santi, Orozco), Japan XI 0 — Barcelona 1 (Zuvina), America Rio 0. **3rd place:** America 4 (Cesar, Mario 2, Alvarez), Japan XI 2 (Nishino, Sugiyama). **Final:** Malaga 0, Barcelona 3 (Zavina 2, Heredia).

Barcelona (Ciudad de Barcelona) —Espanol 1

Spain versus Rumania in the World Cup. Lean (centre) lays on the first of the two Spanish goals.

Rumania defeated

BY THE time most readers see this edition of *World Soccer*, you will know whether Spain have qualified for the World Cup Finals.

Their 2-0 victory over Rumania in Madrid left the whole group depending on the already eliminated Yugoslavs, who had to play away to Rumania and then home to Spain. As it stood, after Spain's win over Stefan Kovacs's team, Rumania remained slight favourites — being far more likely to beat Yugoslavia in Bucharest than Spain were to beat them in Belgrade.

Spain had already left matters late, in winning in Madrid, after a game which — unusually — was *preceded* by a big row, rather than *followed* by it.

The trouble all blew up over an interview Kovacs, now Rumania's soccer chief, gave to the French sports paper, *L'Equipe*. In it Kovacs alleged that the Yugoslavs, Spaniards, FIFA, UEFA authorities were ganging up on Rumania. First by matching them again in a similar qualifying group to so many in past competitions; secondly in providing a draw in the European club competitions which matched Rumanian and Spanish teams "in the hope" Kovacs hinted, that the Spanish clubs would win hands down and upset Rumanian morale before the World Cup deciders.

Kovacs said later that he had been misquoted — a claim strenuously denied by *L'Equipe's* Jacques Ferran — and it seemed the Rumanian will get a sharp rap over the knuckles from the powers-that-be.

The Spain-Rumania match was tough in its own way, with the much-in-demand French referee Robert Wurtz showing the yellow card to four Rumanians, Iordanescu, Boloni, Sames and Tilihoi, and Spain's Juanito.

Spain pushed hard throughout the match, but it wasn't until the 73rd minute that they put their noses in front. Juan Manuel Asensi split the defence, and Atletico Madrid's Eugenio Leal slipped a right foot shot past Cristan.

Cano made it 2-0 seven minutes from time with a back-header which settled the result. The match then grew increasingly more unpleasant, Iordanescu was shown the yellow card for chopping down Benitez and the final whistle came in time to prevent Wurtz falling foul of a serious pitched battle.

Spain: Arconada — Benitez (Marcelino), Migueli, Pirri, Camacho — Leal, Churruca (Satrustegui), Asensi — Juanito, Cano, Dani.

Rumania: Cristan — Cheran, Sames, Satmareanu, Vigu — Dumitru, Balaci (Tilihoi), Boloni, Iordanescu (Robila) — Crisan, Georgescu.

Spanish manager Ladislao Kubala had a number of injury problems before the match, particularly missing the Barcelona full back Ramos, who had made such an impression in the 2-1 friendly win against Switzerland early in the season.

But at least the Rumania game proved that Pirri seems to have found the secret of eternal youth and that Migueli, happily fit again, is among the best central defenders in Europe.

Migueli — his full name is Miguel Bernardo Bianqueti — is hardly a classic player, but he is strong, he is next to viscious in the tackle, and he is extremely quick — both in the way he reads a game, and the way he carries through his responsibilities on the field.

Migueli, like Pirri, hails from Ceuta, the Spanish enclave in North Africa, and he joined Barcelona four years ago from Cadiz. He had barely played a dozen games for CFB, and was on national service, when Kubala first called him into the senior Spanish squad.

Known as 'Tarzan' to the fans at Nou Camp, Migueli has played nine times for Spain since joining Barcelona. He laughs off suggestions that he rates among the top defenders in Europe, but still only 23 he has a long future ahead of him.

Perhaps Migueli's greatest gift is his determination. Several times in the past he had been given the runaround by the Rumanian top scorer, Dudu Georgescu. But Migueli refused to be rattled at the prospect of facing Georgescu again in the World Cup-tie.

"He's a good player who scores a lot of goals," said Migueli before the game. "He's given me a few rough matches. But if he is playing on Wednesday I'll do my best to make sure that this 'Golden Boot' never touches the ball."

Migueli also keeps his promises . . .

(Cozzey pen), Grasshoppers Zurich 1 (Hermann). Espanol 5-4 on pens — Rapid Vienna 1 (Krisitic). Zaragoza 0. **3rd place**: Zaragoza 1 (M. Gonzalez), Grasshoppers 1 (Boul). Grasshoppers 12-11 on pens. **Final**: Espanol 5 (Marianon 3, 1 pen, Jeremias, Flores), Rapid 0.

Vigo:—Celta de Vigo 0, Sporting Lisbon 0., Sporting 4-3 on pens — Atletico Mineiro 4 (Renato 2, Ortuga, Paolo Isadoro), Torpedo Moscow 2 (Petrenko, Vasilev pen). **3rd place**: Celta 1 (Vavel), Torpedo 1 (Kolosjonov), Torpedo 6-5 on pens. **Final**: Atletico Mineiro 1 (Marinho), Sporting Lisbon 0.

Alhambra:—Granada 0, Levsky Spartak 0 — Levsky 3 (Panov 3), Upjest 0 — Granada 4 (Milar pen, Zubiter, Martins, Williams pen), Upjest 0. **Granada win.**

Madrid:—Atletico Madrid 0, America Rio 1 (Leo) — Milan 3 (Turone, Rivera 2, 1 pen), Bilbao 0. **3rd place**: Atletico Madrid 0, Bilbao 1 (Alter Aguirre). **Final**: Milan 3 (Bigon 2, Maldera), America Rio 2 (Cesar 2).

Gijon:—Gijon 4 (Quini, Abel, Ferero, Andres), Vitoria Guimaraes 1 (Mane). — Videoton 2 (Burgas pen, Fejes), Vitoria Guimaraes 2 (Kovacs og, Mane) — Gijon 4 (Abel 2, Ferero, Masai), Videoton 1 (Szabos). **Gijon win.**

Elche:—Elche 0, Nacional Mon. 1 (Manel) — Nacional 0, Murcia 1 (Garcia Murcia) — Elche 3 (Benitez, Silva, Cristo), Murcia 1 (Rolan). **Elche win.**

Huelva:—Huelva 1 (Escarrago pen), Upjest 1 (Kellner) — Real Sociedad 0, Honved 2 (Weimper, Lukacs). **3rd place**: Real Sociedad 1 (Manzabal), Upjest 2 (A. Toth, J. Toth). **Final**: Huelva 2 (Isabelo pen, Rincon), Honved 1 (Kozma).

Valencia (Trofeo Naranja):—Valencia 3 (Eloy, Arias, Valdez), Vitoria Setubal 0 — Borussia Moenchengladbach 5 (Nielsen, Hannes, Simonsen 2, Heynckes), Vitoria Setubal 0 — Borussia Mg 0, Valencia 0. **Borussia win.**

Barcelona (Trofeo Juan Gamper):—Schalke 1 (Fischer), Boca Juniors 0 0 — Slovan 0, Barcelona 3 (Neeskens, Asensi, Heredia). **3rd place**: Boca 2 (Veglio, Tarantini), Slovan 1 (Hartu). **Final**: Barcelona 4 (Neeskens 2, Clares, Asensi), Schalke 1 (Abramczyk).

ARG

ASIA

Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77

OCEANIA

Winner to be known by 31.7.77

Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong Indonesia Malaysia Thailand Singapore Sri Lanka	Israel Japan Rep. Korea	Iran Saudi Arabia Syria	Bahrain Kuwait Qatar	Australia New Zealand Taiwan
Hong Kong	Rep. Korea	Iran	Kuwait	Australia

1.4 to 31.7.77
Winner ASIA — 1.8 to 30.11.77

Qualified for Argentina

ASIA/OCEANIA
Australia 3, New Zealand 1
Taiwan 0, Australia 3
Australia 2, Taiwan 1
N. Zealand 5, Taiwan 0
N. Zealand 1, Australia 1
Taiwan 0, N. Zealand 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
New Zealand	4	2	1	1	14	4	5
Taiwan	4	0	0	4	1	17	0

Group 1
Singapore 2, Thailand 0
Indonesia 1, Hong Kong 4
Malaysia 5, Thailand 4
Singapore 2, Hong Kong 2
Indonesia 0, Malaysia 0
Hong Kong 3, Thailand 1
Singapore 1, Malaysia 0
Thailand 3, Indonesia 2
Hong Kong 1, Malaysia 1
Singapore 4, Indonesia 0
Play-off
Singapore 0, Hong Kong 1

Group 2
27. 2.77 Israel 0, Korea Rep. 0
6. 3.77 Israel 2, Japan 0
13. 3.77 Japan 0, Israel 2
20. 3.77 Korea Rep. 3, Israel 1
26. 3.77 Japan 0, Korea Rep. 0
3. 4.77 Korea Rep. 1, Japan 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Korea Rep.	4	2	2	0	4	1	6
Israel	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Japan	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Group 3
12.11.76 Saudi Arabia 2, Syria 0
26.11.76 Syria 2, Saudi Arabia 1
7. 1.77 Saudi Arabia 0, Iran 3
26. 1.77 Syria 0, Iran 1
22. 4.77 Iran 2, Saudi Arabia 0
6. 4.77 Iran 2, Syria 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	4	4	0	0	8	0	8
Saudi Arabia	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
Syria	4	1	0	3	2	6	2

Group 4
Bahrain 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 0, Qatar 2
Qatar 0, Kuwait 2
Bahrain 1, Kuwait 2
Qatar 0, Bahrain 3
Qatar 1, Kuwait 4
(all matches played in Qatar)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	4	4	0	0	10	2	8
Qatar	4	1	0	3	3	9	2
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	4	6	2

19. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Iran 2
26. 6.77 Hong Kong 0, Korea Rep. 1
3. 7.77 Korea Rep. 0, Iran 0
10. 7.77 Australia 3, Hong Kong 0
14. 8.77 Australia 0, Iran 1
27. 8.77 Australia 2 Korea Rep. 1
2.10.77 Hong Kong 1, Kuwait 3
9.10.77 Korea Rep. 1, Kuwait 0
16.10.77 Australia 1, Kuwait 2
23.10.77 Korea Rep. 0, Australia 0
28.10.77 Iran 1, Kuwait 0
30.10.77 Hong Kong 2, Australia 5
5.11.77 Kuwait 2, Korea Rep. 2
12.11.77 Kuwait 4, Hong Kong 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	3	1	2	11	6	7
Kuwait	6	3	1	2	11	6	7
Iran	4	3	1	0	4	0	7
Korea Rep.	6	2	3	1	5	4	7
Hong Kong	6	0	0	6	3	16	0

CONCACAF

Caribbean Area:

Group 1: by 31.8.76 — Guyana, Surinam* → Surinam
Group 2: Trinidad*, Barbados → Trinidad
Surinam, Trinidad → by 31.12.76: Surinam
Group 3: by 30.4.76 — Haiti*, Dominican Republic → Haiti
Netherlands Antilles* → Haiti
Haiti, Haiti → Haiti
Group 4: Jamaica, Cuba* → Cuba
Haiti, Cuba → Haiti

Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 6, Haiti 3
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0
29. 8.76 Surinam 3, Guana 0
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago 1, Barbados 0
14. 9.76 Trinidad/Tobago 3, Barbados 1
(3rd match in Barbados)
14.11.76 Surinam 1, Trinidad/Tobago 1
28.11.76 Trinidad/Tobago 2, Surinam 2
18.12.76 Surinam 3, Trinidad/Tobago 2
28.11.76 Cuba 1, Haiti 1
11.12.76 Haiti 1, Cuba 1
Play-off Haiti 2, Cuba 0

EUROPE

Group 1
23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal 0, Poland 2
27.10.76 Denmark 5, Cyprus 0
31.10.76 Poland 5, Cyprus 0
17.11.76 Portugal 1, Denmark 0
5.12.76 Cyprus 1, Portugal 2
1. 5.77 Denmark 1, Poland 2
15. 5.77 Cyprus 1, Poland 3
21. 9.77 Poland 4, Denmark 1
9.10.77 Denmark 2, Portugal 4
29.10.77 Poland 1, Portugal 1
16.11.77 Portugal v Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
POLAND	6	5	1	0	17	4	11
Portugal	5	3	1	1	8	6	7
Denmark	6	2	0	4	14	12	4
Cyprus	5	0	0	5	3	20	0

Group 2
13. 6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22. 9.76 Finland 7, Luxembourg 1
13.10.76 England 2, Finland 1
16.10.76 Luxembourg 1, Italy 4
17.11.76 Italy 2, England 0
30. 3.77 England 5, Luxembourg 0
26. 5.77 Luxembourg 0, Finland 1
8. 6.77 Finland 0, Italy 3
12.10.77 Luxembourg 0, England 2
15.10.77 Italy 6, Finland 1
16.11.77 England 2, Italy 0
3.12.77 Italy v Luxembourg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	5	5	0	1	15	4	10
Italy	5	4	0	1	15	4	8
Finland	6	2	0	4	11	16	4
Luxembourg	5	0	0	5	2	19	0

Group 3
31.10.76 Turkey 4, Malta 0
17.11.76 German DR 1, Turkey 1
5.12.76 Malta 0, Austria 1
2. 4.77 Malta 0, German DR 1
17. 4.77 Austria 1, Turkey 0
30. 4.77 Austria 9, Malta 0
24. 9.77 Austria 1, German DR 1
12.10.77 German DR 1, Austria 1
29.10.77 German DR 9, Malta 0
30.10.77 Turkey 0, Austria 1
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AUSTRIA	6	4	2	0	14	2	10
Germany DR	5	2	3	0	13	3	7
Turkey	4	1	1	2	5	3	3
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	24	0

Group 4
5. 9.76 Iceland 0, Belgium 1
8. 9.76 Iceland 0, Netherlands 1
13.10.76 Netherlands 2, Northern Ireland 2
10.11.76 Belgium 2, Northern Ireland 0
26. 3.77 Belgium 0, Netherlands 2
11. 6.77 Iceland 1, Northern Ireland 0
31. 8.77 Netherlands 4, Iceland 1
4. 9.77 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland 2, Iceland 0
12.10.77 Northern Ireland 0, Netherlands 1
26.10.77 Netherlands 1, Belgium 0
16.11.77 Northern Ireland 3, Belgium 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NETHERLANDS	6	5	1	0	11	3	11
Belgium	6	3	0	3	7	6	6
Northern Ireland	6	2	1	3	7	6	5
Iceland	6	1	0	5	2	12	2

Group 5
9.10.76 Bulgaria 2, France 2
17.11.76 France 2, Eire 0
30. 3.77 Eire 1, France 0
1. 6.77 Bulgaria 2, Eire 1
12.10.77 Eire 0, Bulgaria 0
16.11.77 France 3, Bulgaria 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Bulgaria	4	1	2	1	5	6	4
Eire	4	1	1	2	2	4	2

Group 6
15. 5.76 Sweden 2, Norway 0
8. 9.76 Norway 1, Switzerland 0
9.10.76 Switzerland 1, Sweden 2
8. 6.77 Sweden 2, Switzerland 1
7. 9.77 Norway 2, Sweden 1
30.10.77 Switzerland 1, Norway 0

GENTINA '78

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	4	3	0	1	7	4	6
Norway	4	2	0	2	3	4	4
Switzerland	4	1	0	3	3	5	2

Group 7
13.10.77 Czechoslovakia 2, Scotland 0
17.11.76 Scotland 1, Wales 0
30. 3.77 Wales 3, Czechoslovakia 0
21. 9.77 Scotland 3, Czechoslovakia 1
12.10.77 Wales 0, Scotland 2
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia 1, Wales 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SCOTLAND	4	3	0	1	6	3	6
Czechoslovakia	4	2	0	2	4	6	4
Wales	4	1	0	3	3	4	2

Group 8
10.10.76 Spain 1, Yugoslavia 0
6. 4.77 Rumania 1, Spain 0
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia 0, Rumania 2
6.10.77 Spain 2, Rumania 0
13.11.77 Rumania 4, Yugoslavia 6
30.11.77 Yugoslavia v Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Spain	3	2	0	1	3	1	4
Yugoslavia	3	1	0	2	6	7	2

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece 1, Hungary 1
24. 4.77 USSR 2, Greece 0
30. 4.77 Hungary 2, USSR 1
10. 5.77 Greece 1, USSR 0
18. 5.77 USSR 2, Hungary 0
25. 5.77 Hungary 3, Greece 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	2	1	1	5	4	5
USSR	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Greece	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24. 9.76 Canada 1, USA 1
3.10.76 USA 0, Mexico 0
10.10.76 Canada 1, Mexico 0
15.10.76 Mexico 3, USA 0
20.10.76 USA 2, Canada 0
27.10.76 Mexico 0, Canada 0

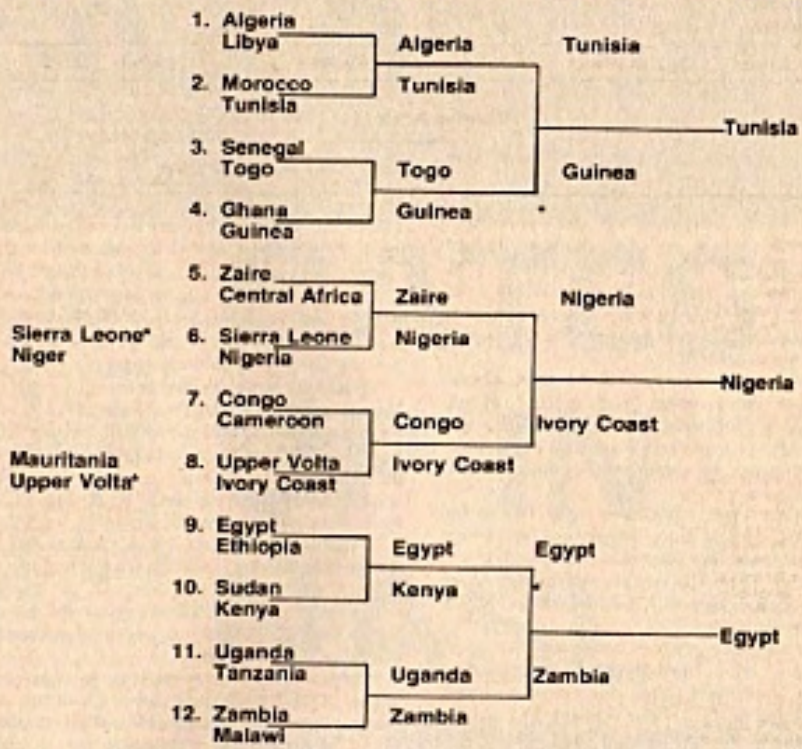
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Canada	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
USA	4	1	2	1	3	4	4

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Panama 1
17. 9.76 Panama 2, Guatemala 4
26. 9.76 Guatemala 7, Panama 0
1.12.76 El Salvador 1, Costa Rica 1
5.12.76 Costa Rica 0, Guatemala 0
8.12.76 Guatemala 3, El Salvador 1
12.12.76 Guatemala 1, Costa Rica 1
17.12.76 Costa Rica 1, El Salvador 1
19.12.76 El Savador 2, Guatemala 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	6	3	2	1	15	8	8
El Salvador	6	2	3	1	10	7	7
Costa Rica	6	1	4	1	8	6	6
Panama	6	1	1	4	7	21	3

Finals
8.10.77 Guatemala 3, Surinam 2
8.10.77 El Salvador 2, Canada 1
9.10.77 Mexico 4, Haiti 1
12.10.77 Canada 2, Surinam 1
12.10.77 Haiti 2, Guatemala 1
12.10.77 Mexico 3, El Salvador 1
16.10.77 Mexico 8, Surinam 1
16.10.77 Canada 2, Guatemala 1
16.10.77 Haiti 1, El Salvador 0
19.10.77 Mexico 2, Guatemala 1
20.10.77 Canada 1, Haiti 1
26.10.77 El Salvador 3, Surinam 2
22.10.77 Mexico 3, Canada 1
23.10.77 Haiti 1, Surinam 0
23.10.77 Guatemala 2, El Salvador 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MEXICO	5	5	0	0	20	5	10
Haiti	5	3	1	1	6	6	7
Canada	5	2	1	2	8	9	5
El Salvador	5	2	1	2	9	10	5
Guatemala	5	1	1	3	8	10	3
Surinam	5	0	0	5	6	17	0



(Tanzania, Sudan, Central Africa and Zaire withdrew)

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1
4. 9.76 Upper Volta 1, Ivory Coast 1
25. 9.76 Ivory Coast 2, Upper Volta 0
31.10.76 Senegal 1, Togo 1
17.10.76 Togo 1, Senegal 0
10.10.76 Ghana 2, Guinea 1
16.10.76 Sierra Leone 0, Nigeria 0
30.10.76 Nigeria 6, Sierra Leone 2
17.10.76 Congo 2, Cameroon 2
31.10.76 Cameroon 0, Congo 2
Guinea 2, Ghana 1
29.10.76 Egypt 3, Ethiopia 0
14.11.76 Ethiopia 1, Egypt 2
12.12.76 Morocco 1, Tunisia 1
9. 1.77 Tunisia 1, Morocco 1
15. 1.77 Ghana 0, Guinea 2
(play-off)

Second Round
Tunisia 2, Algeria 0
Algeria 1, Tunisia 1
Togo 0, Guinea 2
Guinea 2, Togo 1
Congo 2, Ivory Coast 3
Ivory Coast 3, Congo 1
Kenya 0, Egypt 0
Egypt 1, Kenya 0
Uganda 1, Zambia 0
Zambia 2, Uganda 1

5. 6.77 Guinea 1, Tunisia 0
19. 6.77 Tunisia 3, Guinea 1
24. 7.77 Ivory Coast v Nigeria
10. 7.77 Nigeria 4, Ivory Coast 0
15. 7.77 Egypt 2, Zambia 0
31. 7.77 Zambia 0, Egypt 0

Finals
25. 9.77 Tunisia 0, Nigeria 0
8.10.77 Nigeria 4, Egypt 0
21.10.77 Egypt 3, Nigeria 1
12.11.77 Nigeria 0, Tunisia 1
25.11.77 Egypt v Tunisia
11.12.77 Tunisia v Egypt

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Nigeria	4	1	1	2	5	4	3
Egypt	2	1	0	1	3	5	2

SOUTH AMERICA
Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia 0, Brazil 0
24. 2.77 Colombia 0, Paraguay 1
6. 3.77 Paraguay 1, Colombia 1
9. 3.77 Brazil 6, Colombia 0
13. 3.77 Paraguay 0, Brazil 1
17/20. 3.77 Brazil 1, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	4	2	2	0	8	1	6
Paraguay	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Colombia	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela 1, Uruguay 1
27. 2.77 Bolivia 1, Uruguay 0
6. 3.77 Venezuela 1, Bolivia 3
13. 3.77 Bolivia 2, Venezuela 0
17. 3.77 Uruguay 3, Venezuela 0
27. 3.77 Uruguay 3, Bolivia 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivia	4	3	1	0	8	3	7
Uruguay	4	1	2	1	5	4	4
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador 1, Peru 1
27. 2.77 Ecuador 0, Chile 1
6. 3.77 Chile 1, Peru 1
12. 3.77 Peru 4, Ecuador 0
20. 3.77 Chile 3, Ecuador 0
26. 3.77 Peru 2, Chile 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peru	4	2	2	0	8	2	6
Chile	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Ecuador	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Peter Bills talks to Duncan McKenzie

Give talent a chance . . .

DUNCAN McKENZIE hobbled into a cafe just outside Liverpool, sat down uneasily and drew out a cigarette. Once lit, he drew firmly from it and said: "It's a blow — the foot's no good and I'm out for Saturday."

McKenzie had spent the morning at Goodison Park with the Everton specialist. A broken bone in his foot was the diagnosis — and McKenzie wasn't particularly pleased.

"A damn nuisance," he said. "Things had been going so well. I'll miss the next couple of games, at least."

The injury was important but it wasn't the focal point of our conversation. After the slimly-built Everton striker had finished off his cigarette, we turned to lunch — and the subject in everyone's mind for much of this English season.

"People can talk forever about the England set-up and its problems," began McKenzie. "But to me, Don Revie's problems all started with his attempt to create the same sort of family with the England Squad as he had at Leeds. It's impossible with a national team and if Don wanted that, he should have stayed in club management."

So, you may think, what's new about McKenzie or anyone else talking about England? It's all been said before. That's not necessarily the case, however, and McKenzie was my choice to voice the opinions of his unique type.

By that, I put McKenzie into the same group as others long suggested to bring England from its international decline — names like Tony Currie, Alan Hudson, Stan Bowles, Peter Osgood, Charlie George, and a few others.

What all those players have in common is the crux of what McKenzie talked about — brilliant, extremely gifted players with all the talent in the world — but missing a chunk in the qualities of consistency and reliability. Consequently, none of them have ever retained a regular place in the England squad for very long.

Can we afford to leave out players of that nature: players who would rival the talented Continentals at their own game? It's an intriguing point.

McKenzie says: "We say we haven't got world class players and, therefore, a world class team. But look at players like those you've named — who can say they're not world class performers? Our approach overall has been sadly lacking, sadly wrong for the last three or four years. We've picked the wrong teams, there's no doubt about that. We have picked individuals and never tried to blend attack and defence. Players have been selected on a one-off basis and that's absurd.

"We should have either picked ultra-defensive teams or teams that would always be exciting and confident of beating anyone. But we've done neither and we have therefore got the sort of mess we're in."

McKenzie believes the defeats by both the Dutch at Wembley and the Italians, in Rome, were avoidable. "We have had lessons from people who should not have given us lessons," he said. "The Italians are a very average soccer nation but we went to Rome with a team that had no chance of doing anything.

"Against the Dutch, we played as though we were spectators — sitting back waiting for Cruyff to turn it on, instead of putting someone on him like Stiles used to do. He ran the whole show and they looked invincible but they're never that.

"Organisation and beliefs in our own ability — that's what we need. From my own point of view, I'm uncertain what to think about my chances of playing for England again. I just hope that if I keep scoring goals and playing well, I'll be recognised sometime. I think Ron Greenwood showed he was prepared to play ball players and I'd love to think I'll get a chance.

"From our long term point of view, people say there are no youngsters of real class coming through. But that's rubbish. We have got it wrong right the way through our game and we stifle the talent of our young players at an early age. If that didn't happen, we'd produce a stream of talented footballers.

"I believe we could have a lot and already have got some players just as good as the Continentals. People raved about Netzer but two years after that Wembley performance in the European Nations Cup match, he was virtually finished.

"I played for Anderlecht for a spell and got to know about Robbie Rensenbrink. Nice guy undoubtedly but he'd never survive in our First division because he wouldn't be prepared to do the work.

"The answer lies at our own door. If you don't play players with gifted skills in the first place, how do you expect gifted results. Players like George, Hudson, Currie — they can do anything the best foreign players are capable of.

"The great difference is that the foreigners give their talented players a chance and a regular place in the national side. We show we aren't that keen on playing them and when we do, we drop them after one match. Where is the sense in that?

"George and Currie are working hard for their clubs. But they never get near the national side. It's a mystery to me.

"I believe we need far less self-criticism and far more belief in our own ability. We've got fine players and no-one knows that better than the Continentals who have great respect for us. Yet we write ourselves off without thinking. It's senseless, and it's one of the main reasons we're in the current situation."

England's demise worries everyone in world soccer. Yet if McKenzie is right, the answer lies not on some South American or European Football field — but right in our own back garden. That's something to think hard about.

SHOP WINDOW

Advertisements from bona fide collectors and non-profit making organisations printed FREE of charge.

WANTED. The book "Clown Prince of Soccer" by Len Shackleton. Please write stating price, etc. To G. Campbell, 10 Terrance Drive, Brantford, Ontario N3R 3E1, Canada.

I AM 16-YEARS-OLD and would like to have sporting pen-pals from all over the world. All letters answered. My main interest is football. Michael Burchell, 14 Hollington Road, Aspley, Nottingham, England.

25-YEAR-OLD Football-mad fan wishes to correspond with pen pals from Europe with same interests. My team in England is Manchester Utd. and my other hobbies are music and travel. Dodkin, The Hall, Weston Colville, Cambridgeshire, England.

SOCCER MAGAZINES for sale 40 copies of Book of Football; 85 of Soccer Star and 55 Buchan's Football Monthly. Best offer secures, reply to 59 Grenard House, Hartlake Road, Hackney, London, E9.

TWO PEN PALS REQUIRED . . . One from America, living in New York and supports the 'Cosmos' and the other from West Germany who could swap programmes, badges, autographs, pennants and photos. Dean Laws, 1 Clifton Road, Ramsgate, Kent, England.

LIVERPOOL F.C. FAN requires away programme especially from Europe and any other reading material on Liverpool. Paul Hill, 22 Highfield Road, Prestwich, Manchester, England.

WANTED ANY OLD COPIES OF WORLD SOCCER. Please write to: Vinod Kumar K, D 103 Hall, V, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India, 208016.

WANTED: "O Cruzeiro", Rio, years 1944 to 1951; "Manchete Esportiva," Rio, nrs. 1 to 184; "Album da Gazeta Esportiva", Sao Paulo, about Football World Cup 1950, and any other illustrated publication about World Cup 1950. Giangiacomo Gianini, 6011 Vico Morcote (Switzerland).

WANTED: Shoot September 18/25 (combined issue), 1975; Shoot Summer Special 1977; Soccher Holiday Special 1976, 1977. Must be in good condition. Good prices offered. Eddy Lor, P.O. Box 2190, Towson State University, Maryland 21204, U.S.A.

SHOOT 1969. To date plus 15 binders £45 and Soccer Star May 69-June 70, £5. Peter Hall (0702) 46629, evenings.

WANTED: Metal lapel badges or pennants of Bayern Munich and West Germany, will pay good prices. Stephen Bolster, c/o Carroll & Douglas, 224-240 Barkley Street, Footscray 3011, Victoria, Australia.

WANTED: Norwich, Sunderland and Manchester United programmes. Please send lists, also wanted a copy of 'Shoot' dated 5th April, 1975. I will pay £1 for this copy. 27 Tills Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR6 7QR.

NASL ATTENDANCES — 1977

	Total	Games	Average	Cosmos Game	Normal Average
Cosmos	443,847	13	34,142		
Minnesota	426,020	13	32,771		
Seattle	314,936	13	24,226	41,270	22,805
Tampa Bay	253,390	13	19,492	45,288	17,341
San Jose	230,610	13	17,739		
Dallas	214,646	13	16,511		
Portland	171,708	13	13,208		
Washington	169,757	13	13,058	31,283	11,523
Vancouver	154,660	13	11,897	30,277	10,385
Los Angeles	125,354	13	9,643	32,165	7,765
St. Louis	118,455	13	9,112	32,605	7,154
Fort Lauderdale	105,923	13	8,148	14,358	7,630
Toronto	95,369	13	7,336	21,793	6,131
Las Vegas	92,496	13	7,115	11,896	6,716
Rochester	78,843	13	6,065	17,572	5,005
Chicago	67,593	13	5,199	21,108	3,873
Hawaii	59,146	13	4,550	12,877	3,855
Connecticut	50,027	13	3,848	17,302	2,727

GATES UP IN NASL

HE came, he saw, he conquered. A gladiator in soccer boots with a smile to match his superb skills and a personality that filled the empty seats in the soccer stadiums of the United States and Canada. His name is of course Pele, a man who conquered a continent . . . a man the likes of whom we may never see again.

writes Colin Jose

He came in June of 1975 and he left in October of 1977 and in the short space of those three seasons he did more for soccer in the United States than many people had done in a lifetime of devotion to the game.

There is little to be said about Pele that has not already been said. When he came to the United States his career at the top was more or less over and therefore his value to North America and to the North American Soccer League in particular lay in the magic of his name and its ability to attract the uncommitted fan to the game and into the stadiums. To convert the American sports fan to soccer.

In the August 1975 edition of *World Soccer* I wrote that, "Whatever effect Pele does have on North American soccer will be in the realm of publicity for the game at large. He will provide the youth of America with the first superstar to emulate, a superstar not thousands of miles away but one on their doorstep."

And this is exactly what he has done adding in the process impetus to the already burgeoning grass roots movement across the continent. But what of the NASL, what effect did the presence of Pele have on the league?

NASL commissioner Phil Woosnam once told me that he felt that Pele would give the league a major league image, and this has certainly proved to be true. However, when we look a little closer we find that his effect on the game as a whole has been greater than on the league.

Back to earth

The season just completed has undoubtedly been the greatest ever for the NASL, attendances were up 34 per cent over 1976, yet half the teams were still averaging below the 10,000 per game level.

When Pele and the Cosmos came to town attendances rocketed but fell limply back to earth for the following game as the attendance table clearly indicates.

On the other hand the Cosmos had only a limited effect on the successful franchises. The Minnesota Kicks for example managed to average 32,771 without the benefit of a visit from the Cosmos, but if we subtract the Cosmos attendance from the total attendance of most of the teams in the league the picture is not so bright.

Connecticut had an attendance of 17,302 when the Cosmos came to New Haven but for their other 12 home games only managed to attract a total of 32,725 for a real average per game of 2,727. No wonder the Connecticut franchise was quickly moved to Oakland, California soon after the season ended.

So with or without Pele the sound businesslike franchises of Seattle, Tampa Bay, San Jose, Dallas, Portland and Minnesota did well while the under-financed and poorly managed clubs continued to struggle or give up the struggle.

For the 1978 season without the benefit of Pele the NASL is already talking in terms of a 24 team league, up six teams from last season.

There have been applications for membership from seven cities and they are currently under study by the leagues executive committee. The cities involved are Boston, Cleveland, Houston, Detroit, Memphis, Montreal and Philadelphia. Detroit seems virtually certain to get a franchise at this time and to play its home game in the 80,638 seat Silverdome Stadium in suburban Pontiac.

World heavyweight boxing champion Muhammed Ali has reportedly applied for a franchise in Montreal, where the team would play its games in the Olympic Stadium.

Franz Beckenbauer and Terry Garbett of the Cosmos.

In the meantime the St. Louis Stars one of the two oldest members of the NASL appear to be on the move. If approved the team would move to Anaheim, California close to Disneyland and play in the 43,250 seat Anaheim Stadium.

One new franchise for 1978 has already been approved and that is the Denver Cariboos.

Euro-review

compiled by Keir Radnedge

FEW SURPRISES in the second round of the European club competitions — but with the Cup-winners' Cup holders, Hamburg, making an ignominious exit against Anderlecht.

Hamburg chose the week between the two legs to replace their managerial duo of Krohn and Gutendorf and, having lost 2-1 at home to Anderlecht through sheer careless defensive work, never appeared to believe in their ability to turn the tables in Brussels.

In the Champions' Cup last season's last two, Liverpool and Borussia Moenchengladbach went through easily enough, though in Liverpool's case the 6-3 scoreline hides the fact that the Anfield machine is a little short of perfect tuning at the moment.

Borussia's 8-1 hiding of Red Star Belgrade also tells you nothing about the fact that in Belgrade the Yugoslavs gave away two ridiculous goals — the kind of mistakes Borussia won't benefit from in the further reaches of the competition.

Juventus, the team everyone worries about, went through easily as well, but Benfica struggled and Ajax — former triple champions — also had their off moments.

In the Cup-winners' Cup Manchester United, having been reprieved, duly crashed out in an exciting tie with the brilliantly inconsistent Porto, while, in the UEFA Cup, big names Barcelona and Bayern both had their problems while Schalke were surprisingly beaten away *and* home by Magdeburg.

There were second round hat-tricks for Duda (Porto), Sparwasser (Magdeburg) and Six (Lens) and the biggest crowd was the 95,000 for Red Star-Borussia in Belgrade. The smallest crowd — 3,000 — saw Eintracht Frankfurt beat FC Zurich 4-3 in a UEFA Cup second leg.

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Second round — first legs

Benfica 1 (Pietra 47 pen)
B1903 Copenhagen 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 55,000. Ref: Carpenter (Ire).

Brugge 2 (Davies 24 pen, Cools 72)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 27,500. Ref: Gordon (Scot).

Celtic 2 (Craig 48, Burns 76)
SSW Innsbruck 1 (Krieiss 54)
HT: 0-0. Att: 30,000. Ref: Nyhus (Norway).

A disappointing result for the 1967 winners — and a serious blow when Alfie Conn was carried off midway through the second half after a tackle which earned Werner Sollwerz a yellow card. Conn had only just returned to the Celtic team struggling in the league after a cartilage operation. Innsbruck could have gone ahead after 13 minutes. A Stering corner was hit on the turn by Weizl, and Aitken cleared off the goal-line. Celtic hit back, and Jo Edvaldsson saw a header glance off the top of the bar. A Wilson drive skimmed narrowly wide, then Craig missed an open goal. He made amends just after half-time however after Edvaldsson headed on a corner, but the Austrians were level six minutes later. Goalkeeper Peter Latchford hesitated once and stayed on his line as Werner Kriess rose to head down a free kick, then Latchford hesitated again and the ball nicked in off the post. Celtic were left with the fear that Burns's late winner might not prove enough.

Glentoran 0
Juventus 1 (Causio 38)
HT: 0-1. Att: 27,500. Ref: Derks (Hol)

Glentoran put up a brave fight against the Juventus team who had, a few days before, provided the backbone to the Italy side which smashed six goals past Finland. The Irish put considerable pressure on Juve, but the best move came in the 38th minute, when Tardelli headed on a Gentile centre, and Franco Causio lashed in the only goal. Two minutes later Bettega, scorer of four goals against the Finns, limped off suffering from a recurrence of the ankle injury which had made his appearance doubtful. Juve had a scare when Jamieson hit the bar and, in the second half, when a Moreland header went just wide. Finally Glentoran could have equalised when, five minutes from time, Francesco Morini handled in the penalty box. However Zoff pushed Warren Feeney's spot kick away for a corner. Two Italians were booked — skipper Furino and Bettega's substitute, Pietro Paolo Virdis.

Levsky Spartak Sofia 1 (Velinov 81 pen)
Ajax Amsterdam 2 (Geels 32, Erkens 79)
HT: 0-1. Att: 75,000. Ref: Aldinger (WG)

A double blow for Levsky — not only losing at home to the former triple champions, but losing their best forward, Pavel Panov, with a suspected leg fracture.

Liverpool 5 (Hansen 14, Case 21, 58, Neal 44 pen, Kennedy 86)
Dynamo Dresden 1 (Hafner 56)
HT: 3-0. Att: 39,835. Ref: Garrido (Port)

Liverpool manager Bob Paisley upset the East Germans by surprisingly including John Toshack, the Wales forward, for his first match since the second leg of last season's quarter-final against Saint-Etienne. Toshack, who has been plagued by injury, had impressed Paisley in Wales' World Cup-tie against Scotland at Anfield the week before. Paisley decided then to put him in against the East Germans, but told no-one — not even Toshack — until shortly before the game. The Germans, surprised and confused, couldn't cope with his ability in the air, and Liverpool ran out easy winners, as befits the holders of the Champions' Cup. New £100,000 centre back Alan Hansen, from Partick, opened the scoring and Liverpool were 3-0 up by the break, Case heading in, and Neal converting a penalty after Dalglish was brought down. Reinhard Häfner was the best East German, and Klaus Müller and Gert Heidler were both booked. Liverpool could have made it seven but for fine late saves by Claus Boden from Kennedy and Callaghan.

Nantes 1 (Lacombe 47)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Marcial 42)
HT: 0-1. Att: 23,948. Ref: Thomas (Wales).

Atletico, missing the suspended Luiz Pereira and the injured Leivinha, held on for a draw without impressing the French whose coach, Jean Vincent, was bitterly annoyed by the Spaniards' time-wasting tactics.

Red Star Belgrade 0
Borussia Moenchengladbach 8 (W. Schäfer 15, Heynckes 45, Simonsen 75)
HT: 0-2. ATT: 95,000. Ref: Cebe (Turkey)

The Jugoslavs, already rapidly losing touch with Partizan in the league, contributed to a large part to their own downfall — giving away two goals with ridiculous mistakes in their own penalty box.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Second round — first legs

FK Austria/Wacker 0
Lok. Kosice 0
Att: 8,500. Ref: Doudine (Bel)

Diosgyoer 2 (Tatar 56, Varadi 64)
Hajduk Split 1 (Muzinic 21)
HT: 0-1. Att: 15,500. Ref: Jarjuz (Pol)

Hamburg 1 (Keller 69)
Anderlecht 2 (Coeck 22, Rensenbrink 69)
HT: 0-1. Att: 52,000. Ref: Wurtz (France)

A catastrophe for the Cup-winners' Cup holders, as Anderlecht took revenge for their defeat in last season's final. Hamburg, a club in a crisis, took another major step towards a parting of the ways with manager Peter Krohn and coach Rudi Gutendorf after throwing this away in the final minutes. The Hamburg defenders were playing the ball around between themselves, intent of preserving at least a draw, when Rob Rensenbrink surged through to rob Hidien, take possession and win the game for the Belgians.

Lok. Leipzig 1 (Gröbner 30)
Betis Seville 1 (Lopez 15)
HT: 1-1. Att: 36,500. Ref: Amundsen (Den)

Leipzig should have won, but veteran forward Henning Frenzel missed badly from just outside the six yard box in the second half.

Moscow Dynamo 2 (Kazachenok 23, Minaev 39)
Univ. Craiova 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Latsios (Greece)

Twente Enschede 2 (Gritter 42, 54)
Brann Bergen 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 12,000. Ref: Guaudeville (Lux)

Vejle 3 (Eg 12, Jaquet 70, Oestergaard 83)
PAOK Salonika 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 6,200. Ref: Biversi (WG)

The Greeks were bitterly upset after the game — claiming it should never have been played because of fog which restricted visibility.

FC Porto 4 (Duda 8, 24, 54, Oliveira 60)
Manchester United 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 60,000. Ref: Dörflinger (Switz)

Local police sent out reinforcements to make sure there was no trouble from the Manchester fans, and, though they had to repulse some gate-crashers before the start, there was no repeat of the Saint-Etienne first round fiasco. United, reprieved by UEFA's appeals board, soon looked on their way out of the competition under more conventional methods. The Portuguese tore them apart, scoring four — but it could have been eight. Three times United had to clear off the goal-line as Porto, inspired by the Brazilian Duda — who had moved back to Portugal after a season with Sevilla in Spain, United were unfortunate to be without the injured Greenhoff brothers and England centre forward Stuart Pearson. That they were below par was due in part to their own goodwill — they had agreed to visit Kuwait the next week for a friendly game during 'British week' and the vaccinations upset several of the players.

UEFA CUP
Second round — first legs

AEK Athens 2 (Mavros 57, Nikoloudis 83)
Standard Liege 2 (Sigurvinsson 14, Poul 42)
HT: 0-2. Att: 22,000. Ref: Burns (Eng)

AZ '67 Alkmaar 1 (Nygaard 41)
Barcelona 1 (Neeskens 46)
HT: 1-0. Att: 22,500. Ref: Eschweiler (WG)

Aston Villa 2 (McNaught 11, 54)
Gornik Zabrze 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 34,138. Ref: Franco Martinez (Spain)

Ken McNaught, bought for £200,000 from Everton in the summer, scored his first goals for Villa as he came up from his centre-back position to twice head past Ginsander. Both goals followed left-wing corners by Dennis Mortimer. Villa started brilliantly, but were kept at bay by some rugged defensive work, and Gornik had both Gorgon and Kurzeja booked. In the closing stages Gornik came out of defence, with Gizi threatening a breakaway goal, and Popowicz in fact hitting the bar.

Bastia 2 (Papi 50, 69)
Newcastle 1 (Cannell 7)
HT: 0-1. Att: 9,500. Ref: Linemayr (Austria)

Newcastle, having suffered 10 successive defeats in the league, upset Bastia in the first half with their accurate passing and Cannell scored from close range after Barrowclough centred when it appeared the ball was about to run out of play. Newcastle relaxed a little in the second half, Bastia fought back through the introduction of dangerous substitute Franchetti, and Papi rolled in the equaliser after a goalmouth scramble. Finally, in the last minute, Papi slipped two defenders and scored the winner.

Bayern Munich 3 (Müller 44, Rummenigge 51, 64)
Marek Stanke Dimitrov 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 10,000. Ref: Ronnet (Malta)

Inter Bratislava 1 (Sajanek 83)
Grasshoppers Zurich 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 7,000. Ref: Owen (Wales).

Ipswich 1 (Gates 23)
Las Palmas 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 22,249. Ref: Dubach (Switz)

Las Palmas, packing their defence in the first half, and looking to the superb distribution of general Miguel Angel Brindisi in the second, were well satisfied with this result. For Ipswich nothing went right. Manager Bobby Robson, trying to liven up his attack, took off Trevor Whymark after 70 minutes. But three minutes later Estevez handled in the penalty box. Whymark is the Ipswich penalty king and in his absence Clive Woods shot straight at Carneval, Argentina's 1974 World Cup goalkeeper. Two minutes from time Las Palmas centre forward Carlos Morete was narrowly off target after Brindisi split the Ipswich defence.

KB Copenhagen 1 (Laudrup 80)
Tbilisi Dynamo 4 (Chiwadze 10, Kipiani 25, Chelebadze 75, Shengelkiya 84)
HT: 0-2. Att: 6,400. Ref: Perry (N. Ire)

Lazio Rome 2 (Wilson 29, Giordano 30)
Lens 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 60,000. Ref: Buzek (Austria)

Magdeburg 4 (Sparwasser 18, 44, 63, Steinbach 77)
Schalke 2 (Demange 51, Abramczyk 57)
HT: 2-0. Att: 37,500. Ref: Fredriksson (Sweden)

Jurgen Sparwasser confirmed his return to form after injury and illness by hitting a fine hat-trick in the East-West German clash.

RWD Molenbeek 1 (Wolters 35)
Carl Zeiss Jena 1 (Lindemann 42)
HT: 1-1. Att: 9,000. Ref: Guruceta (Spain)

Start Kristiansand 1 (Helge Haugen 78)
Eintracht Braunschweig 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 7,917. Ref: Lund-Sörensen (Denmark)

Steve Coppell scores for Manchester United against FC Porto. In the Cup Winners Cup. United were beaten 6-5 on aggregate.

Torino 3 (Pulici 6, P. Sala 26, Pecci 48)
Dynamo Zagreb 1 (Cerin 59)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Somlai (Hungary)

Ujpest Dozsa 2 (Torocsik 7, Vicziko 85)
Athletic Bilbao 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Gonella (Italy)

Widzew Lodz 3 (Rozborsky 17, Kowenicki 65, Boniek 78)
PSV Eindhoven 5 (Deykers 38, 55, Deacy 25, van der Kuyten 72, Francois 73)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Delcourt (Belgium)

FC Zurich 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Hölzenbein 26, Wenzel 77, 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Christov (Czech)

CHAMPIONS' CUP
Second round — second legs

Ajax Amsterdam 2 (Larby 42, Geels 50)
Levsky-Spartak 1 (Milanov 43)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Ericsson (Swe)
Ajax win 4-2 on aggregate

Atletico Madrid 2 (Caro 76, Pereira 78)
Nantes 1 (Lacombe 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 64,000. **Ref:** Palotai (Hun)
Atletico win 3-2 on aggregate

A nasty scare for Spanish champions, Atletico Madrid. After Guy Lacombe put Nantes ahead in the match and on aggregate, the Spaniards grew more and more anxious and nervy. Caro then scored to spark a two-minute spell which turned the tie around — Luis Pereira, returned from suspension, forging forward for the winner. But Atletico looked one of the most unconvincing of quarter finalists.

Borussia Moenchengladbach 5 (Simonsen 17, 32, Heynckes 60, Nikolic 61 og, Wittkamp 87)
Red Star Belgrade 1 (Susic 47)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,500. **Ref:** Homewood (Eng)
Borussia win 8-1 on aggregate

Never a problem for last season's losing finalists — after all, they led 3-0 from the away leg. Once again it was little Allan Simonsen doing most of the damage. He had scored a hat-trick in the league the previous Saturday, and continued the good work with Borussia's two first goals. Herbert Wimmer, Christian Kulik and Jupp Heynckes all looked virtually clear of injury worries at long last.

BK1903 Copenhagen 0
Benfica 1 (Pietra 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,400. **Ref:** Horbas (Czech)
Benfica win 2-0 on aggregate

Danish coach Erik Dennung nursed real hopes of an upset here, but once again Benfica squeaked home with a goal from Pietra.

Dynamo Dresden 2 (Kotte 47, Sachse 52)
Liverpool 1 (Heighway 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Corver (Hol)
Liverpool win 6-3 on aggregate

Liverpool were unassailable after their first leg triumph, but at the start of the second half they did look somewhat shaky and the East Germans took advantage. "I doubt whether we'll meet another team for a while to give us such a hard game," said Bob Paisley, manager of the European champions afterwards. And Dresden boss Walter Fritzsche forecast that Liverpool would hold on to the Cup. That served to disguise a little the fact that this was one of Liverpool's poorest European performances. There were danger signs in the first half, with possession given away carelessly, and Dresden only had poor finishing to blame for the fact that they hadn't made some inroads on Liverpool's four-goal advantage. After the interval Dresden did score — Kotte shooting in after a Dörner free kick was deflected to him, and then Hänlein set up a second for Sachse. Liverpool's positive response was to send on "super-sub" David Fairclough, and from his run down the right Steve Heighway scrambled the ball in after some pathetic work by the Dresden defence.

SSW Innsbruck 3 (Welzl 4, Sterling 21, Oberacher 27)
Celtic 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Gussoni (Italy)
Innsbruck win 4-2 on aggregate

Celtic were soon writing off their dreams of a second European Cup win, just over 10 years after the first. They never looked like unsetting the Austrians, even though Innsbruck had — because of a UEFA ban — to transfer this game to Salzburg. Goals in the first half-hour destroyed Celtic, whose skipper Andy Lynch was sent off nine minutes from time for a rough tackle. Only winger Johnny Doyle impressed for a Celtic team also struggling in the league. A foul by young Jim Casey led to the first, quick goal. Schwarz's free kick was turned on by Oberacher for Welzl to slip into the net. Oberacher then gave Sterling the second, before scoring the third himself — this time provided by Sterling.

Juventus 5 (Virdis 10, 20, Boninsegna 53, Fanna 70, Benetti 81)
Glentoran 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Kolossy (Russia)
Juventus win 6-0 on aggregate

So easy for Juventus, with £1.2 million reserve striker Pietro Paolo Virdis in the starring role. First he took on a Causio pass to sweep past two defenders, and score, then he pushed in an easy goal after a brilliant Bettega header struck a post. Bettega gave way for Boninsegna in the second half, and he headed in a Fanna free kick for goal No 3. Glentoran, restricted to a couple of long-range efforts and relying heavily on goalkeeper Matthews, also needed the post to prevent Virdis completing a hat-trick, by he did lay on the fourth for Fanna. Finally Fanna, in turn, laid on the best goal of the match for Romeo Benetti — his cross was smashed into the net with a 25-yard volley.

Panathinaikos 1 (Gonios 83)
Brugge 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Prokop (EG)
Brugge win 2-1 on aggregate

CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Second round — second legs

Anderlecht 1 (Van der Elst 11)
Hamburg 1 (Keegan 41)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Wöhrer (Austria)
Anderlecht win 3-2 on aggregate

Hamburg were beaten virtually before they started. Since the first leg, and their home defeat, they had seen manager Peter Krohn dismissed and coach Rudi Gutendorf suspended at his own request. Former Turkish international goalkeeper Arkoc Ozcan was in temporary charge as Kevin Keegan scored a goal which was but a consolation as Hamburg's brief reign as Cup-winners' Cup-holders was put under notice.

Betis 2 (Garcia Soriano 32, 75)
Lok. Leipzig 1 (Liebers 54)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Delcourt (Bel)
Betis win 3-2 on aggregate

Brann Bergen 1 (Tronstad 18)
Twente Enschede 2 (Gritter 55, Thoresen 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Gudmundsson (Ice)
Twente win 4-1 on aggregate

Universitatea Craiova 2 (Cirtu 21, Beldeanu 39)
Moscow Dynamo 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Raus (Yug)
Aggregate 2-2 – Dynamo win 3-0 on penalties

The Rumanians hit back quickly to level on aggregate, but their nerve failed them when it came to the spot kick contest. They missed all their first three out of five, while Kazachenok, Masmenkov and Petrushin made it safe for Dynamo.

Hajduk Split 2 (Vujovic 16, Ruskjac 65 pen)
Diosgyoer 1 (Tatar 81)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,500. **Ref:** Anderco (Rum)
Aggregate 3-3 – Hajduk win 4-3 on penalties

Lok. Kosice 1 (Farkas 51 pen)
Wacker/Austria Vienna 1 (Morales 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,500. **Ref:** Konrath (France)
Aggregate 1-1 – Austria win on away goal

A goal from Austria's Uruguayan forward Julio Morales was just enough to turn the scales — meaning, remarkably, that the Viennese had reached the quarter finals with only two goals in four games!

Manchester United 5 (Coppell 6, 65, Murca 39, 89 og, Nicholl 44)
FC Porto 2 (Seninho 29, 85)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 52,375. **Ref:** Einbeck (EG)
Porto win 6-5 on aggregate

United manager Dave Sexton thought that if Porto were put under enough pressure their rickety defence and unsure goalkeeper, Fonseca, would soon crack. He was proved devastatingly right as United fell bravely two goals short of victory. The crux of the matter was that United had to attack all the time, and this gave the lively Seninho two opportunities to score vital away goals for Porto. A first-time shot from Steve Coppell put United ahead after eight minutes, and then Houston hit the bar with a header. Seninho got his first goal then, but by half-time United were 3-1 up. Murca put a cross from Hill into his own net, then almost on the stroke of the break Nicholl belted in the third after a corner. The second half was all United. Coppell scored No 4, after Pearson headed on a Hill corner, and United could hope for the miracle. But two fine saves from Fonseca denied them, then Seninho slipped away for a second Porto goal. That Murca should turn in another own goal after a chip from Pearson didn't matter — it came almost on the final whistle. United, having been presented with a second chance in the competition by the UEFA appeals board, had let it slip. Later Porto manager Jose Maria Pedroto criticised East German referee Hans Einbeck for two of the goals. Pedroto alleged that a bomb threat had forced the referee to bend United's way. The allegations were refuted by UEFA delegate Rudolf Scheurer.

PAOK Salonika 2 (Orfanos 22, Kermanides 87)
Vejle BK 1 (Jacobsen 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Rainea (Rum)
Vejle 4-2 win on aggregate

UEFA CUP
Second round — second legs

Barcelona 1 (Rexach 32 pen)
AZ'67 Alkmaar 1 (Kist 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Pahenson (Scot)
Aggregate 2-2 – Barcelona win 5-4 on penalties

Such a close call for Barcelona after the Dutch side battled bravely to hold their own in Nou Camp, and bear out forecasts that they are Dutch football's most exciting new force.

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Dani 69, 81, Tiapu 107)
Ujpest Dozsa 0
HT: 0-0. 90 mins: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Partridge (Eng)
Bilbao win 3-2 on aggregate

An extra-time triumph for Bilbao, beaten finalists last season, who did well to turn the tie upside down after finding the route to goal blocked for well over an hour.

Eintracht Braunschweig 4 (Breitner 13, Handschuh 46, Hollmann 56, 79)
Start Kristiansand 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,800. **Ref:** Stec (Poland)
Braunschweig win 4-1 on aggregate

Eintracht Braunschweig confirmed their ranking as one of the possible surprise dark horses of the UEFA Cup with the confidence with which they finished over the Norwegians. Paul Breitner headed them ahead, and Handschuh also headed the second after a cross from Borg. A beautiful defensive splitting long pass from Markhofer provided the goal of the game for Hollmann.

● *Continued overleaf*

● Continued from previous page

Carl Zeiss Jena 1 (Lindemann 64 pen)
RWD Molenbeek 1 (Ahlinho 68)
HT: 0-0. Att: 23,500. Ref: Babacan (Turkey)
Aggregate 2-2 – Carl Zeiss win 5-5 on penalties

Another penalty contest, and this time it is the Belgians of RWD Molenbeek, who did so well in the UEFA Cup last season, who fell short of the third round.

Dynamo Zagreb 1 (Seruzen 24)
Torino 0
HT: 1-0. Att: 52,500. Ref: Yushka (Russia)
Torino win 3-2 on aggregate

Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Kraus 1, Grabowski 63, Stepanovic 66, Krobach 87)
FC Zurich 3 (Risi 44 pen and 61, Torstensson 81)
HT: 1-1. Att: 3,000. Ref: Ivanov (Russia)
Frankfurt win 7-3 on aggregate

Gornik Zabrze 1 (Marcinkowski 40)
Aston Villa 1 (Gray 52)
HT: 1-0. Att: 15,000. Ref: Michelotti (Italy)
Aston Villa win 3-1 on aggregate

Villa wanted a quick goal, but after Andy Gray headed over in the second minute, Gornik took over. Gorgon had a header tipped over the bar after 15 minutes, and the Poles finally went ahead in the 40th minute, when Jarzina crossed and Gizi slipped then for Janusz Marcinkowski to score from close range. Villa equalised when a flying header by Gray to a Carrodus across from the right was too much for goalkeeper Fischer, and after that Gornik faded.

Grasshoppers Zurich 5 (Elsener 4, 35, Porne 39, Suser 61, Hey 80)
Inter Bratislava 1 (Jankemik 76)
HT: 3-0. Att: 5,500. Ref: Back (Holland)
Grasshoppers win 5-2 on aggregate

Marek Stanke Dimitrov 2 (Petrov 30, Pargov 37)
Bayern Munich 0
HT: 2-0. Att: 25,000. Ref: Dilek (Turkey)
Bayern win 3-2 on aggregate

Las Palmas 3 (Morete 11, 55, Felix 78)
Ipswich 3 (Mariner 13, 70, Tibbott 28)
HT: 1-2. Att: 25,000. Ref: Verbeke (France)
Ipswich win 4-3 on aggregate

It had been thought Ipswich were all but out, especially after they lost 2-0 at home to struggling West Ham the Saturday before the game. Instead they played well under pressure and provocation and three times took the lead in an ill-tempered match which produced 60 free kicks. Las Palmas didn't take kindly to some of the heavy tackling of Hunter and Talbot, but of the four players booked, three were local — Estevez, Brindisi and Felix. Russell Osman of Ipswich was also shown the yellow card. The amount of garbage chucked over the fence threatened Las Palmas with a fine from UEFA.

Lens 6 (Six 44, 52, 114, Bouadra 106, Djebali 117, 119)
Lazio 0
HT: 1-0. 90 mins: 2-0. Att: 27,000. Ref: Dias Correia (Portugal)
Lens win 6-2 on aggregate

A real tongue-twister for the English — Lens scoring six, and Six scoring three! The French international left-winger was outstanding against the lack-lustre Italians, though it wasn't until extra time that Lens finally crept ahead. Lazio had to come out of their shell and, in doing so, left the gaps for the French to ratle in three more late goals for a remarkable win.

Newcastle 1 (Gowling 16)
Bastia 3 (De Zerbi 3, Rep 9 and 67)
HT: 1-1. Att: 38,000. Ref: Thime (Norway)
Bastia win 5-2 on aggregate

Another remarkable win for the French. Bastia, it had seemed, were there for the taking. Instead it was Newcastle who were taken apart in the early minutes, first when ex-Saint-Etienne man Felix Lacuesta laid on a goal for De Zerbi, then when Paoi created No 2 for Dutch star Johnny Rep. An Alan Gowling goal made by Tommy Craig gave Newcastle some little hope, but when Rep ripped in a glorious third in the second half it was all over.

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Deykers 73)
Widzew Lodz 0
HT: 0-0. Att: 11,000. Ref: Maksimovic (Yugoslavia)
PSV win 6-3 on aggregate

Schalke 1 (Kremers 52)
Magdeburg 3 (Pommerenke 15, 50, Steinbach 20)
HT: 0-1. Att: 60,000. Ref: McGinley (Scotland)
Magdeburg win 7-3 on aggregate

A stunning result for Bundesliga hopefuls Schalke and the first East German win across the border in the West since Magdeburg's Sparwasser scored his historic World Cup goal in Hamburg in 1974.

Standard Liege 4 (Lebarbe 41, Riedl 64, Nickel 79, Gorez 85)
AEK Athens 1 (Ardizogiou 63)
HT: 1-0. Att: 38,000. Ref: Hungerbühler (Switz)
Standard win 6-3 on aggregate

Only one real hold-up as the Belgians strode into the third round — Swiss referee Hungerbühler was knocked unconscious in a first-half collision with Standard's Icelandic midfielder, Ausgeir Sigurvinsson. After being brought round by his linesman he was well enough to continue with the game.

Dynamo Tbilisi 2 (Kipiani 53, Chelebadze 56)
KB Copenhagen 1 (Andersen 84)
HT: 0-0. Att: 50,000. Ref: Mattson (Finland)
Tbilisi win 6-2 on aggregate

UEFA CUP — Third round draw November 23, December 7

Ipswich v Barcelona — Aston Villa v Athletic Bilbao — Eintracht Frankfurt v Bayern Munich — Carl Zeiss Jena v Standard Liège — PSV Eindhoven v Eintracht Braunschweig — Magdeburg v Lens — Bastia v Torino — Dynamo Tbilisi v Grasshoppers.

MAGYARS THRO

News from Hungary by Leslie Vernon

FACT — Hungary have qualified for the Finals of the World Cup — for the first time since 1966. Fact — Hungary beat Czechoslovakia, Poland, Russia, Greece, Yugoslavia, Sweden and Bolivia in consecutive internationals in the Nepstadium — the "Wembley" of Budapest. Fact — all four Hungarian clubs were eliminated in the European competitions before the autumn leaves began to fall.

An apparent contradiction which cannot be explained by "facts", but as most football problems are the raw material for airing individual prejudices and opinions, I shall attempt to untangle the mystery.

Firstly, let's take the highly commendable march towards the Argentina target under the inspired leadership of Lajos Baroti. The last warm-up match before that unknown quantity, Bolivia, descended on Budapest, was played against Sweden, already safely in possession of a place in the last 16 of the global confrontation. For this game, Baroti preferred Martos at right-full-back, Istvan Kocsis of Honved in the heart of the defence instead of the rapidly fading Balint, and the Fazekas-Torocsik-Varadi forward line.

In the 33rd minute, Nyilasi headed home a Martos centre, and four minutes later, after an inspired Torocsik-Varadi interplay, the latter netted — 2-0, and victory seemed assured. But putting icing on the cake, or more appropriately an extra anchovy on the smorgesbord, Torocsik (a new Albert? a new Puskas?) scored a fabulous goal. Picking up a loose ball in the centre circle, he weaved past several gigantic Swedish defenders and then with the delicacy of a Jack Nicklaus, chipped the ball over the head of the falling goalkeeper, Hagberg.

Yet, the main dish, Bolivia, despite their lowly status in world football was anticipated with trepidation. Baroti emphasized that their performances in Cali, in the South American play-off games, were 'uncharacteristic', and one must remember that earlier they k.o'd Uruguay. Besides, a substantial lead must be built-up before the second-leg in La Paz, where angels fear to tread, and humans can't breathe in the high altitude.

There is no need to remind English readers of how difficult it can be to score a vast number of goals against inferior opposition, and when the Hungarian team (with the more aggressive, attack-minded Torok instead of Martos in the defence) took the field, one could practically touch the anxiety and apprehension of the capacity crowd. Yet, the match, the tie, the vexed question of qualification was over in 27 minutes!

During that time, Nyilasi (12), Torocsik (19), Zombori (21) and Varadi scored for an unassailable lead of 4-0! Before the break, Pinter, and afterwards substitute L. Nagy made the total 6-0, an advantage surely the untalented, naive, overawed Bolivians will find impossible to cancel out on their own patch.

Baroti: "We played brilliantly in the first half, then the boys relaxed. No matter how thin the air is in La Paz, we are now practically in the Finals."

A modest enough statement from a ma who first managed the Hungarian nation eleven in 1957. His record is beyon reproach — qualification for 1958, '62 an '66 — with outstanding results in Chile an England. He took over the team 1975 after a long spell of failures, and on again performed the near impossible.

And the crux of the matter is that th series of good results which I hav mentioned earlier, was achieved with settled team with very few changes inside squad of 16 players. Baroti habituall disregards club form (not unlike Schoe Zagallo, Bearzot), and picks players o their showing in the national jersey. An what is even more remarkable — not penny (or "filler") has been given o promised to the players during the Wor Cup qualifying run.

They were simply told: "You a playing for your country, and for the gam we all love. If there is to be a future f football in Hungary as the most popul spectator sport, we must qualify f Argentina. No bonuses will be paid f winning individual matches, but if we g there, you will be generously rewarded."

This simple statement has worked mo than threats, bullying or the promise vast fortunes. I well remember t "tragedy of Marseille" when Hunga were beaten in the World Cup play-o match by Czechoslovakia in '69. Sever players told me that they were numb wi fear during the match because they we on a bonus so big, that winning would ha meant a comfortable life for them. Soun

Ajax strive to regain past strength

by Jack Rollin

HARD on the heels of PSV Eindhoven this season are Ajax, still the most successful of Dutch clubs over the entire period of the country's footballing history, but now attempting to strengthen their squad for domestic and European honours.

The days of Johan Cruyff, Johan Neeskens, Piet Keizer and Barry Hulshoff are gone of course. Only Wim Suurbier and Rudi Krol remain from the halcyon days not so long ago when Dutch football on the European map in an international sense.

Suurbier now 32 years old has made well over 600 appearances in all matches for the club and his extensive international experience embraces appearances for the Dutch Military team, the Under-23's and the full side on over 50 occasions. Right-back has been his position and though he was in dispute with the club at the start of last season re-signed during the term.

Krol is now the captain and has switched from being a useful full-back into an outstanding sweeper. In something like ten years he has also shared in the various triumphs enjoyed by Ajax but was missing from the line-up in the 1971 European Cup Final because of a broken leg. But he received as big a cheer from the Dutch supporters when he hobbled around Wembley's dog track after the victory over Panathinaikos as any of those who played. An international fixture, too, he has around 50 caps himself, at 28.

Ajax have been in the process of rebuilding for some seasons but have in the meantime picked up some usefully experienced players from elsewhere. Perhaps the overall result has been one of less exciting flair but they have managed to keep a reasonable standard as far as domestic football is concerned.

In the last 13 seasons Ajax have won the League title seven times, finished runners-up twice and third on the other three occasions. Overall they have won the competition a record 17 times.

Success

Founded in 1900 they first achieved the title in 1918 and repeated their success the following year. They were held up for another League championship until 1931 and just as the thirties were a purple period for Arsenal in England, so it was for Ajax in Holland.

In fact they managed four more championships in that era in 1932, 1934, 1937 and 1939. After the war they resumed with another success in 1947 but it was a long wait before another came their way and it came in 1960.

Since then they have added another seven to their records in 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1973 and 1977. And in the Dutch Cup their seven successes is second to none.

In 1974 they secured the services of an experienced centre-forward in the shape of Ruud Geels who in his first three completed seasons with the club has responded well with goals. In 1974-75 he scored 30 goals, the following season he finished just one short of that total and last term he managed 34.

Previously with FC Bruges in Belgium and earlier with Go Ahead, Telstar and Feyenoord, Geels probably enjoyed his best time internationally for Holland during the European Championship final stages.

The same year that Geels was signed, Ajax also snapped up the international goalkeeper Piet Schrijvers from Twente Enschede. At 30 he is now a year older than Geels. But he is but one of three former Twente players now with Ajax. The others are striker Johan Zuidema and midfield player Rene Notten.

Zuidema is 29 and is an international like Notten in fact who is a year his junior. But while the former is only in his second season with Ajax, the latter was recruited in December 1974.

More recently one of the club's younger discoveries the quaintly named Tscheu La Ling was given a chance in the full Dutch national side as a flank forward and showed promise for the future at only 21.

Of Chinese extraction this former youth international has been a professional with Ajax for two years. And the club have a few wholly foreign players on the staff at present. Others will probably follow before long including possibly a couple from the Football League.

But for the present they have a German Peter Lubeke and two Danes, Frank Arnesen and Soren Lerby. Lubeke is 25 and has been around in his career having played for Hamburg in the German Bundesliga and Hercules the Spanish club from Alicante. He was signed this season but both the Danish players came together in December 1975 as forwards. Arnesen is a former Danish youth international while Lerby has been capped at Under-23 level and at the age of 19 is two years younger than Arnesen.

Full-back Jan Everse a 23-year-old was transferred from Feyenoord in July of this year and is an international for Holland with Under-23 and full appearances. Centre-back Pim Van Dord can claim association with Ajax dating back to 1963 even though he is only 24 now. He was first taken up by the club at the tender age of 10.

Goalkeeper

Previously with Wageningen and De Graafschap is midfield player Dick Schoenaker a 25-year-old in his second season with Ajax. Former FC Amsterdam forward Geert Meijer came two years ago.

Completing the squad are Simon Tahamata, Rob Tervoort, Freek Lamain, Peter Jager, Aitze Bouma and Hans Erkens. Tahamata is a 21-year-old Under-23 international who was signed from his youth days, reserve goalkeeper Tervoort is also 21 and Lamain in his first season as a professional is 19 and has also been with the club since he was 10.

Jager is just 20 and has been attached to Ajax since he was 11 and has recently won Under-23 honours. Bouma is a 22-year-old youth and Under-23 cap and Erkens is in his second season with the club and is 25.

Ajax are currently being coached by the Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic and his assistant Bob Haarms can look back on 30 years association with the club. He joined then as a 13-year-old schoolboy in 1947 and played until 1960. He had a five year spell as trainer to several amateur clubs before coming back to become assistant to a string of successful Ajax managers like Michels, Kovacs, Knobel, Kraay, Michels again and now Ivic.

Haarms has seen it all and is doubtless looking forward to further achievements by the club.

UGH

idiotic (especially when we are talking about amateurs!), but this problem of what kind of incentives footballers should be offered is a vital one.

Especially in a socialist country, where there is no way a footballer can ensure his future by investing his surplus earnings. That's why it is widely assumed that the decline of Polish and Czech football after their respective triumphs in '74 and '76 was due to the over-generous rewards given to the players.

Once they had an expensive car, the latest gadgets in their luxury homes, and ten suits in the wardrobe, there were no incentives left to train and live like a sportsman should. But Hungarian football is not yet as good as the ideally prepared national team would lead us to believe. In that atmosphere of fervent partrietism, the players did perform extremely well, but they couldn't reproduce the same determination, form and dedication for their club sides. Hence, the inglorious exit of Ferencvaros and Vasas at the first hurdle, and Dozsa at the second (against Bilbao for the second year running).

I exempt Diosgyor from criticism, because for this lowly provincial club to beat Besiktas, and to take the seasoned European campaigners, Hajduk Split, to penalty-kicks decision, was quite an achievement. Still, let us rejoice over the prospect of seeing, once again, the famous cherry-red jerseys of Hungary in a World Cup Final. Stefan Kovacs expects them to be the "surprise packet" of the competition, and Baroti says that he will have a "very good side indeed" by the summer of 1978. Huj, Huj, Hajra!

LEAGUE TABLES

ARGENTINA: Metropolitan First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	36	19	11	6	66	39	49
Independiente	36	18	12	6	63	36	48
Velez Sarsfield	38	18	11	7	57	41	47
Boca Juniors	36	18	8	10	55	35	44
Colon Santa Fe	36	16	10	10	57	45	42
Rosario Central	36	15	11	10	50	30	41
Newell's O.B.	36	14	11	11	54	30	39
Est. La Plata	37	11	15	11	51	49	37
All Boys	36	11	14	11	43	52	36
Banfield	37	12	12	13	44	44	36
Argentinos Jun.	36	11	13	12	48	49	35
Huracan	36	10	15	11	47	52	35
San Lorenzo	36	12	11	13	34	41	35
Union Santa Fe	36	9	16	11	46	43	34
Racing	36	10	14	12	36	36	34
Chacarita Jun.	37	10	14	13	46	50	34
Atlanta	37	13	8	16	43	53	34
Platense	37	9	16	12	42	57	34
Lanus	37	9	15	13	35	42	33
Quilmes	37	10	13	14	44	56	33
Gim. La Plata	37	11	9	17	57	66	31
Temperley	36	9	9	18	46	68	27
FC Oeste	36	5	8	22	40	80	18

BRAZIL: Carioca Championship
(2nd round final standings)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Vasco da Gama*	14	12	2	0	26
Flamengo*	14	12	2	0	26
Fluminense	14	11	1	2	23
Botafogo	14	8	2	4	18
Bangu	14	8	0	6	16
Portuguesa	14	6	3	5	15
America	14	4	6	4	14
Sao Cristovao	14	4	5	5	13
Volta Redonda	14	3	5	6	11
Olaria	14	4	2	8	10
Bonsucesso	14	3	4	7	10
Madureira	14	3	3	8	9
Americano	14	1	5	8	7
Campo Grande	14	3	1	10	7
Goytacaz	14	1	4	9	6

*Vasco da Gama won play-off 5-4 on penalties (Score 0-0)

URUGUAY: First Division
(after six games)

1) Peñarol, Danubio 9 pts; 3) Defensor, Nacional, Wanderers 8; 6) Cerro, Rentistas 5; 8) Bella Vista, Huracan Buceo 4; 10) Sud America 3; 11) Liverpool 2; 12) River Plate 0.

PARAGUAY: First Division
(19 games)

(1) Libertad 28 pts; (2) Cerro Porteño 25; (3) Olimpia 23; (4) Guarani 22; (5) Sportivo Luqueño 20; (6) River Plate, Tembetary, Rubio Nu 16; (9) Nacional 13; (10) Resistencia 9.

COLOMBIA: "Finalizacion" Championship
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Deportivo Cali	15	9	3	3	26	14	21
America Cali	16	5	9	2	21	17	19
Millonarios	15	6	5	4	23	17	17
Cristal Caldas	16	5	6	5	26	27	16
Nacional	15	6	4	5	19	19	16
Junior	16	4	7	5	14	16	15
Inde. Santa Fe	16	6	3	7	21	19	15

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bucaramanga	16	4	9	3	19	17	17
Cucuta	15	5	5	5	20	20	15
Medellin	16	3	9	4	24	24	15
U. Magdalena	15	5	5	5	13	18	15
Quindio	16	4	5	7	13	20	13
Pereira	15	4	4	7	19	22	12
Tapa Roja	16	4	4	8	10	18	12

CHILE: First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	25	14	7	4	46	32	35
Union Española	25	13	8	4	52	25	34
Colo Colo	25	12	9	4	41	30	33
Palestino	25	12	8	5	49	27	32
Lota Schwager	25	8	12	5	36	29	28
Aviacion	25	9	9	7	36	33	27
Concepción	25	10	6	9	38	32	26
Audax Italiano	25	9	8	8	38	39	26
Univ. de Chile	24	7	11	6	31	36	25
Huachipato	25	7	10	8	32	33	24
Green Cross	25	7	8	10	34	48	22
O'Higgins	25	7	8	10	31	36	22
Ovalle	25	7	8	10	32	37	22
San. Morning	25	4	13	8	27	36	21
Univ. Catolica	24	6	8	10	26	37	20
Wanderers	25	6	8	11	36	45	20
Nublense	25	5	8	12	28	35	18
Antofagasta	25	4	5	16	18	44	13

ECUADOR: "Finalizacion" Championship
Group A: (1) Nacional (Quito), Barcelona (Guayaquil) 14 pts; (3) Universidad de Portoviejo, Universidad Catolica (Quito), Manta, Liga Deportiva Universitaria de Quito 12; (7) Emeleo (Guayaquil), Deportivo Cuenca 11; (9) Carmen Mora (Machala) 9; (10) Liga Deportiva Universitaria (Cuenca) 3 (all 11 games).
Group B (leaders): (1) Deportivo Quito 17; (2) Tecnico Universitario 15; (3) Union Deportiva Valdez (Milagro) 13.

PERU: National Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Col. N. Iquitos	23	11	9	3	32	19	31
Melgar	23	8	13	2	27	20	29
Alianza Lima	23	10	8	4	44	30	28
Sporting Cristal	23	10	7	6	41	23	27
Universitario	23	10	7	6	37	22	27
Bolognesi	23	9	7	7	28	24	26
Sport Boys	23	11	3	9	21	36	25
Union Huaral	23	7	8	8	33	33	22
Deport. Junin	23	8	6	9	32	37	22
Atletico Chalaco	23	6	9	8	29	33	21
L. de Huanuco	23	8	4	11	27	36	20
Alfonso Ugarte	23	8	4	11	34	32	20
Juan Aurich	23	6	7	10	22	30	19
Dep. Municipal	23	5	8	10	23	32	18
Cienciano	23	5	6	11	18	28	16
Defensor Lima	23	5	5	13	35	46	15

VENEZUELA: Professional Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portuguesa	17	9	7	1	39	12	25
Estudiantes	17	7	9	1	16	5	23
U. Merida	17	7	7	3	30	18	21
Italia	15	8	4	3	20	10	20
Portugues	17	6	8	3	19	14	20
Valencia	16	7	4	5	23	17	18
Galicia	17	7	4	6	18	20	18
Barquisimeto	18	5	5	8	19	26	15
U. Orinete	18	4	7	7	15	26	15
San Cristobal	16	6	2	8	23	26	14
Canarias	17	2	3	12	13	40	7
At Azmora	17	1	4	12	8	29	6

LEAGUE TABLES continued on page 50

River Plate's Passarella (left) and Marchetti (right) — in light shirts — try to reach the ball which is cleared by San Lorenzo's Sanz (6) while international defender Olguin (right) and Marangoni cover in the Argentina first division match in which no goals were scored.

Left to right: Cuellar, Ortega, Rangel and Sanchez of Mexico.

WORLD CUP DETAILS CONCACAF FINALS PLAYED IN MEXICO

October 8 in Monterrey
GUATEMALA 3 (MacDonald 2, Alfaro)
SURINAM 2 (Schal 2)
Guatemala: Garcia: Gomez, Wellmann, Bolanos, Rivera; Valle, Monterroso (Alfaro), MacDonald; Sanchez (Mitrovich), Anderson, Gonzalez.
Surinam: Leilis: Vanenburg, Garden, Olmberg, Brondenstein; George, Puperhart, Rigters; Eintingh, Emanuelson, Schal (Castilion).
Referee: Mike Wuertz (U.S.A.)

October 8 in Monterrey
EL SALVADOR 2 (Zapata 2)
CANADA 1 (Budd)
El Salvador: Dessent: Pena, Jovel, Fagoaga, Recinos; Rivera, Montoya (Alcides) Quinteros; Gonzalez (Valdez), Sosas, Zapata.
Canada: Bilecki: McGrane, Sam Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Wilson; Bolitho (Parsons), Strenicer, Gant; Kodelja, MacKay, Roe (Budd).
Referee: Luis Pestarino (Argentina)
Attendance: 42,000.

October 9 in Mexico City
MEXICO 4 (Rangel 3, Sanchez)
HAITA 1 (Auguste)
Mexico: Castrejon: Najera, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala; Cuellar, De la Torre, Chavez (Cardenas); Ortega, Jimenez (Rangel), Sanchez
Haiti: Francillon: Jean Joseph, Matheiu, Auguste, Nazaire (Romulus); Antoine (Labissiere), Dorsainville, Desir; Bayone, Sanon, Domingue.
Referee: Ramon Barreto (Uruguay).
Attendance: 108,000.

October 12 in Mexico City
CANADA 2 (Parsons, Bakic)
SURINAM 1 (Olmberg pen)
Canada: Chursky (Bilecki): Iarusci, Sam Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Wilson; Bobby Lenarduzzi, Strenicer, Bakic; Kodelja (Budd, Parsons, MacKay.
Surinam: De Mass: Venenburg, Garden, Olmberg, Brondenstein; George, Zebeda (Puperhart), Eintingh; Rigters, Corte (Castilion), Schal.
Referee: Luis Paulino Silas (Costa Rica).

October 12 in Monterrey
HAITI 2 (Domingue, Romulus)
GUATEMALA 1 (Mitrovich)
Haiti: Francillon: Bayone, Matheiu, Jean Joseph, Auguste; Antoine, Romulus, Desir; Domingue (Baptiste), Sanon, Dorsainville.
Guatemala: Piccinini: Gomez, Wellmann, Bolanos, Rivera; Valle, Monterroso, Sanchez (Anderson); MacDonald, Rossotto, Gonzalez (Mitovich).
Referee: Luis Pestarino (Argentina).
Attendance: 13,465.

October 12 in Mexico City
MEXICO 3 (Rangel 2, Cardenas)
EL SALVADOR 1 (own goal)
Mexico: Pilar Reyes: Najera, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala; Cuellar, De la Torre, Cardenas (Real): Ortega (Isiordia), Rangel, Sanchez.
El Salvador: Dessent: Jovel, Recinos, Fagoaga, Pena; Huezo, Rivera, Quinteros: Ramirez, Zapata, Rosas (Valdes), Gonzalez (Mejia).
Referee: Toros Kibritjian (U.S.A.)
Attendance: 108,000.

October 15 in Monterrey
MEXICO 8 (Rangel, Isiordia 2, Sanchez 2, Jimenez 2, Chavez)
SURINAM 1 (Olmberg pen)
Mexico: Pilar Reyes: Trujillo, Ramos, Gomez, Ayala; Real, Guillen, Solis (Chavez); Isiordia, Rangel (Jimenez), Sanchez.
Surinam: Leilis: Siedfried, Garden, Leefland, Brondenstein; Olmberg, Zebeda (Castilion), Puerphart; Eintingh (Rigter), Emanuelson, Schal.
Referee: Jose Luis Valverde (Costa Rica).

October 16 in Mexico City
CANADA 2 (Parsons, Bobby Lenarduzzi)
GUATEMALA 1 (Alfaro)
Canada: Chursky: Iarusci, Sam Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Wilson; Bobby Lenarduzzi, Strenicer, Bolitho; Bakic (Gant), Parsons, MacKay (Thompson).
Guatemala: Garcia: Gomez, Wellmann, Valle (Toledo), Rivera; Monterroso, Bolanos, Rossotto (Alfaro); MacDonald, Mitrovich, Sanchez.
Referee: Ramon Barreto (Uruguay)
Attendance: 25,000

October 16 in Mexico City
HAITI 1 (Sanon)
EL SALVADOR 0
Haiti: Francillon: Bayonne, Jean Joseph, Matheiu, Auguste; Antoine, Desir (Cadet), Romulus; Domingue, Sanon, Dorsainville (Labissiere).
El Salvador: Dessent: Pena, Jovel, Fagoaga, Penate; Quinteros, Rivera, Huezo; Gonzalez, Rosas (Cabrera), Aquino (Valdez).
Referee: Ramon Calderon (Cuba).

October 19 in Mexico City
MEXICO 2 (Ayala pen, Rangel)
GUATEMALA 1 (Mitrovich)
Mexico: Castrejon: Najera, Ramos, Gomez; **Ayala:** De la Torre, Cardenas (Real), Cuellar: Ortega, Rangel (Aceves); Sanchez.
Guatemala: Garcia: Carlos Perez (Rossotto), Monterroso, Bolanos, Jose Perez: Gomez, Alfaro, Anderson: Salguero, Mitrovich, Riveiau.
Referee: Luis Pestarino (Argentina).
Attendance: 80,000.

October 20 in Monterrey
CANADA 1 (Bakic)
HAITI 1 (Dorsainville)
Canada: Chursky: Iarusci, Sam Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Wilson; Bobby Lenarduzzi, Strenicer (Bolitho), Bakic; McGrane, Parsons, MacKay (Thompson).
Haiti: Francillon: Bayone, Matheiu, Jean Joseph, Auguste; Antoine, Cadet, Romulus (Dorsainville); Labissiere, Domingue, Sanon.
Referee: Jose Luis Valverde (Costa Rica).
Attendance: 30,000.

October 20 in Monterrey
EL SALVADOR 3 (Gonzalez, Rosas 2)
SURINAM 2 (Emanuelson, Olmberg)
El Salvador: Dessent: Pena, Jovel, Fagoaga, Romero (Rodriguez): Quinteros (Rivera), Mejia, Huezo: Gonzalez, Rosas, Amolito.
Surinam: De Mass: Venenburg (Foster), Garden, Olmberg, Brondenstein: George, Puperhart, Rigters (Corte): Eintingh, Emanuelson, Schal.
Referee: Carlyle Crockwell (Bermuda).

October 22 in Monterrey
MEXICO 3 (Guzman 2, Sanchez)
CANADA 1 (Parsons)
Mexico: Castrejon: Najera, Tena, Guzman, Ayala: Cuellar, De la Torre, Solis (Aceves): Jimenez, Isiordia, Sanchez (Ortega).
Canada: Chursky: Iarusci, Sam Lenarduzzi, Ayre, Twamley (McGrane): Bolitho, Bakic, Gant (Strenicer): Roe, Parsons, Thompson.
Referee: Rudolph Moses (Netherlands Antilles).
Attendance: 55,000.

October 23 in Mexico City
HAITI 1
SURINAM 0

October 23 in Mexico City
GUATEMALA 2
EL SALVADOR 2

Eddie Gray of Leeds United.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	15	10	3	2	32	17	23
Nice	15	10	2	3	36	22	22
Marseille	15	9	2	4	29	18	20
Strasbourg	15	6	6	3	31	18	18
Nantes	14	7	4	3	26	14	18
St-Etienne	15	7	4	4	24	21	18
Laval	14	6	5	3	20	19	17
Sochaux	15	7	2	6	31	23	16
St-Germain	15	6	3	6	32	27	15
Lyon	15	6	2	7	28	24	14
Lens	15	5	4	6	25	30	14
Reims	15	5	4	6	17	22	14
Bordeaux	15	6	2	7	21	28	14
Nancy	14	5	3	6	21	20	13
Bastia	14	6	1	7	17	19	13
Nimes	15	5	2	8	21	26	12
Troyes	15	3	4	8	17	34	10
Valenciennes	15	2	5	8	20	29	9
Metz	15	3	3	9	13	31	9
Rouen	15	3	1	11	22	41	7

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV Eindhoven	14	11	3	0	33	3	25
Ajax Amsterdam	14	10	2	2	30	14	22
Twente Enschede	14	9	3	2	29	10	21
AZ'67 Alkmaar	14	7	4	3	33	15	18
Sparta Rotterdam	14	7	3	4	21	13	17
Feyenoord	14	5	7	2	22	14	17
Roda JC	14	6	5	3	16	15	17
NEC Nijmegen	14	7	1	6	20	23	15
Vitesse Arnhem	14	4	6	4	17	25	14
Volendam	14	4	4	6	19	23	12
Den Haag	14	6	0	8	23	31	12
Utrecht	14	4	3	7	21	23	11
NAC Breda	14	3	5	6	13	18	11
VV Venlo	14	4	3	7	19	25	11
Haarlem	14	3	5	6	14	20	11
Amsterdam	14	3	2	9	16	37	8
Go Ahead Deventer	14	2	1	11	15	32	5
Telstar Velsen	14	1	3	10	11	31	5

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	13	8	3	2	30	17	19
Aberdeen	13	7	4	2	20	11	18
Partick Thistle	13	7	2	4	19	18	16
Dundee Utd	13	6	3	4	15	9	15
St. Mirren	13	5	3	5	19	20	13
Celtic	13	5	2	6	18	18	12
Motherwell	13	4	2	7	17	18	10
Hibernian	13	4	2	7	10	12	10
Ayr United	13	4	2	7	14	23	10
Clydebank	13	2	3	8	9	25	7

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Servette	14	9	4	1	30	13	22
Grasshoppers	14	9	3	2	41	19	21
Lausanne	14	9	1	4	30	12	19
Zürich	14	8	3	3	24	18	19
Basel	14	7	2	5	30	21	16
Sion	14	4	6	4	20	18	14
Chênois	14	6	2	6	17	22	14
Neuchâtel Xamax	14	4	3	7	21	26	11
Etoile-Carouge	14	4	2	8	16	24	10
St. Gallen	14	3	4	7	20	29	10
Young Boys	14	2	5	7	13	29	9
Young Fellows	14	1	1	12	9	40	3

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nottingham Forest	15	11	2	2	30	10	24
Everton	15	8	5	2	29	15	21
West Bromwich	15	8	4	3	30	19	20
Coventry	15	8	4	3	26	19	20
Arsenal	15	7	4	4	18	10	18
Liverpool	15	7	4	4	17	12	18
Norwich	15	6	6	3	18	20	18
Manchester City	15	7	3	5	26	18	17
Aston Villa	15	7	3	5	20	17	17
Leeds	15	4	7	4	24	24	15
Ipswich	15	5	5	5	15	17	15
Middlesbrough	15	5	5	5	17	20	15
Wolverhampton	15	5	4	6	21	21	14
Birmingham	15	6	2	7	20	24	14
Chelsea	15	4	5	6	9	13	13
Manchester U.	14	5	2	7	18	21	12
Q.P.R.	15	3	6	6	18	22	12
Derby	15	3	5	7	17	24	11
Bristol City	14	3	4	7	15	20	10
West Ham	15	2	6	7	18	26	10
Leicester	15	2	4	9	6	25	8
Newcastle	15	2	2	11	17	32	6

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria/WAC	14	9	4	1	30	16	22
SSW Innsbruck	14	7	3	4	20	10	17
Sturm Graz	14	7	3	4	28	24	17
Rapid	14	5	4	5	27	20	14
Wiener SC/Post	14	5	3	6	20	25	13
VOeEST Linz	14	3	6	5	21	26	12
Vienna	14	5	2	7	14	23	12
Admira/Wacker	14	3	5	6	21	24	11
Linzer ASK	14	4	3	7	19	25	11
Grazer AK	14	2	7	5	11	18	11

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cologne	15	10	1	4	47	24	21
Bor. M'gladbach	15	8	3	4	34	23	19
Kaiserslautern	15	8	3	4	28	23	19
Fortuna D'seldorf	15	8	2	5	24	18	18
Schalke 04	15	7	4	4	23	22	18
Bor. Dortmund	15	8	1	6	29	28	17
VfB Stuttgart	15	7	2	6	21	20	16
Hamburger SV	15	7	2	6	25	26	16
Eintr. B'schweig	15	8	0	7	22	23	16
Hertha BSC	15	6	4	5	20	23	16
Eintr. Frankfurt	15	7	1	7	30	26	15
MSV Duisburg	15	5	4	6	29	28	14
Saarbrücken	15	5	4	6	21	28	14
Werder Bremen	15	5	3	7	20	28	13
Bayern	15	4	4	7	31	34	12
VfL Bochum	15	4	3	8	16	18	11
St. Pauli	15	4	2	9	25	34	10
1860 Munich	15	1	3	11	13	32	5

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	10	8	0	2	25	9	16
Barcelona	10	6	2	2	16	4	14
Valencia	10	5	1	4	18	10	11
Salamanca	10	5	1	4	13	13	11
Las Palmas	10	4	3	3	15	16	11
Elche	10	5	1	4	14	19	11
Athletic Bilbao	10	3	4	3	16	10	10
Rayo Vallecano	10	4	2	4	16	13	10
Real Sociedad	10	4	1	5	16	11	9
Real Betis	10	2	5	3	11	9	9
Atletico Madrid	10	4	1	5	16	16	9
Gijon	10	3	3	4	11	12	9
Santander	10	3	3	4	8	12	9
Hercules Alicante	10	3	3	4	8	15	9
Sevilla	10	4	1	5	11	19	9
Espahol	10	4	0	6	13	21	8
Cadiz	10	3	2	5	9	21	8
Burgos	10	2	3	5	7	13	7

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PETER MAST *Young Boys of Berne* **and CHRIS ROBERTSON** *Rangers*
LEFT RIGHT

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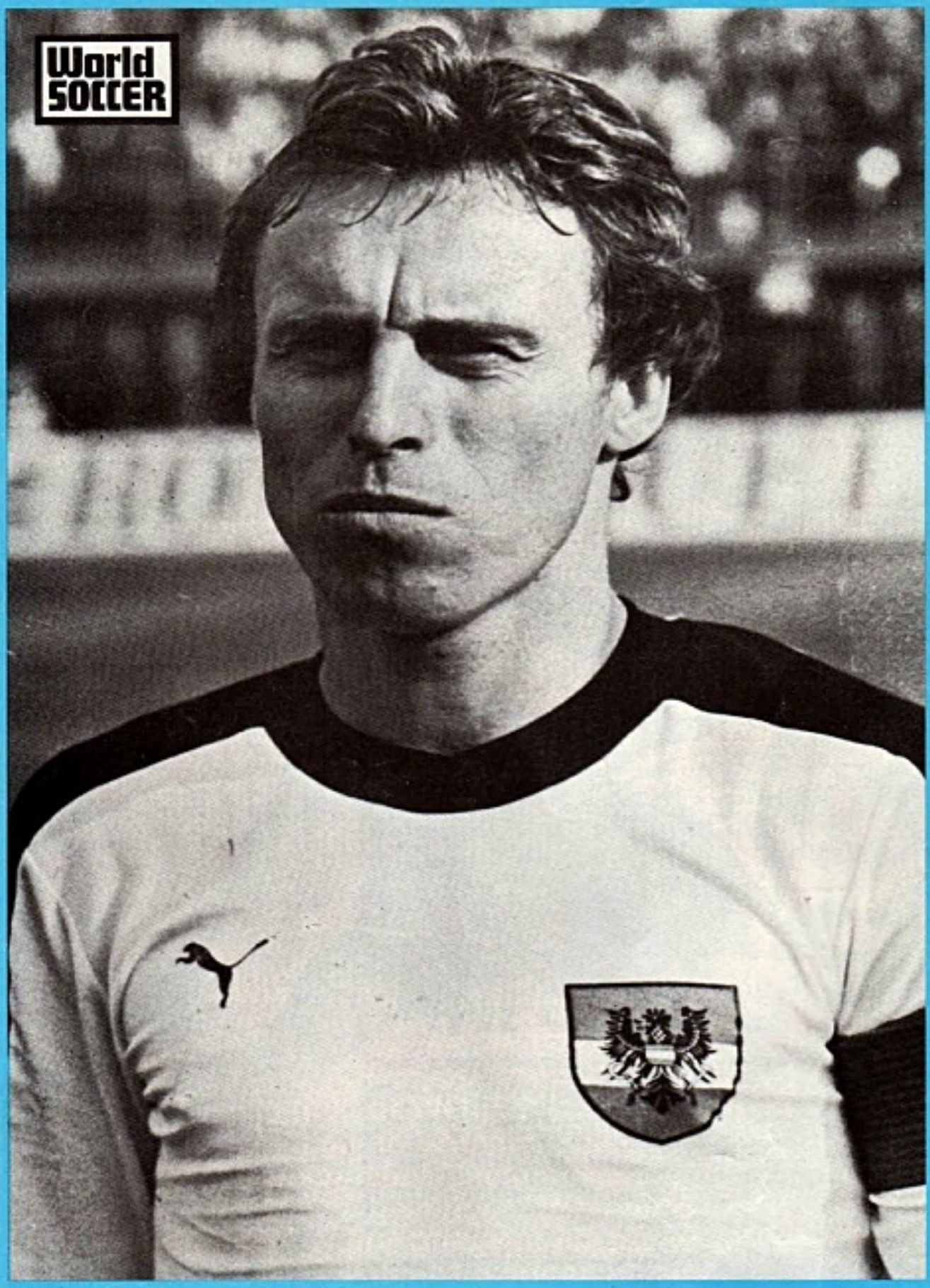

SARA Captain of Austria